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HIGH TIMES

NOV 418

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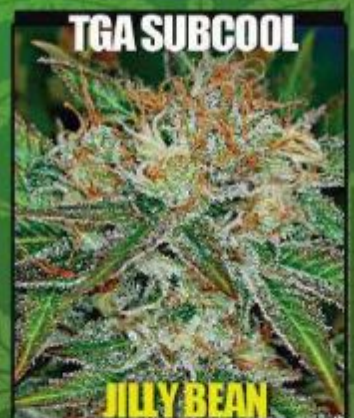
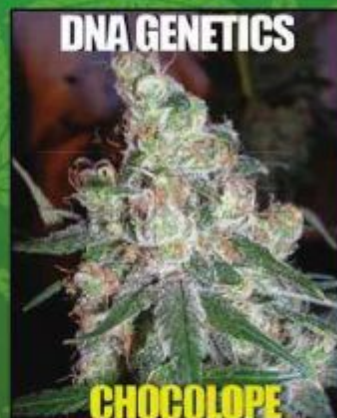
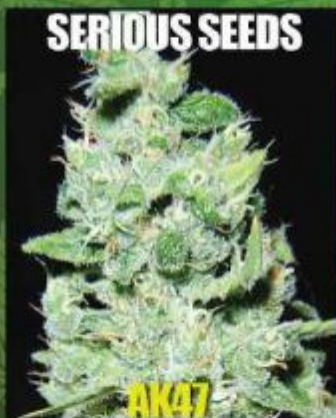
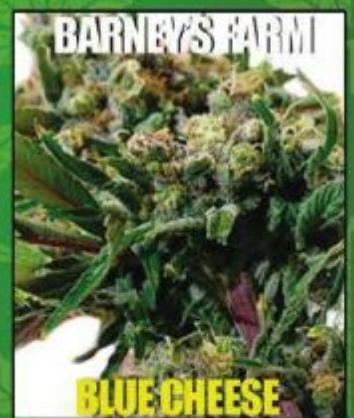
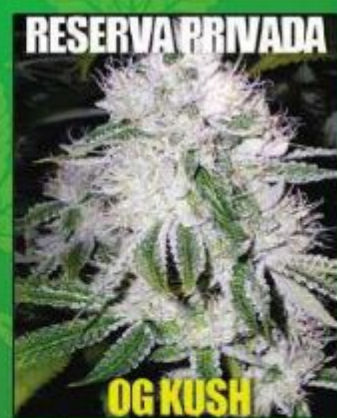
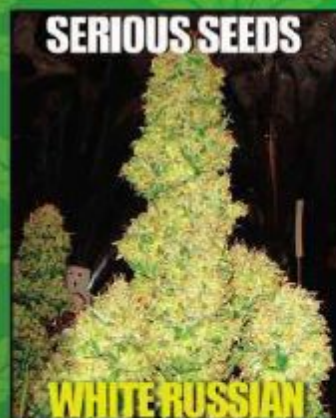
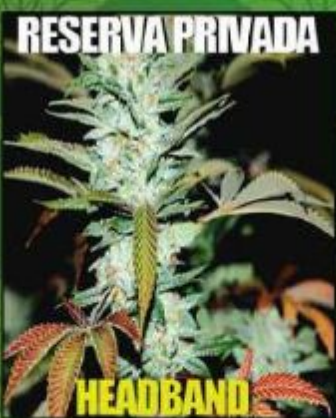
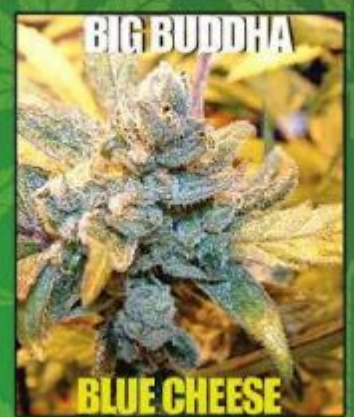
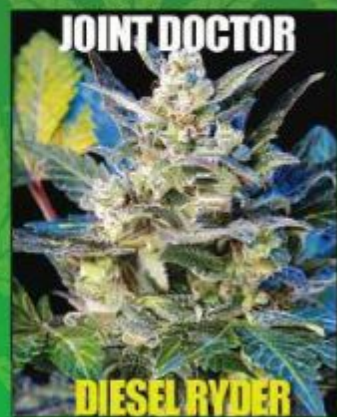
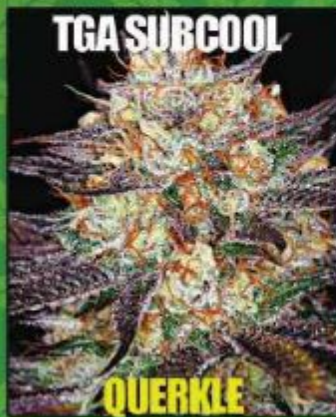
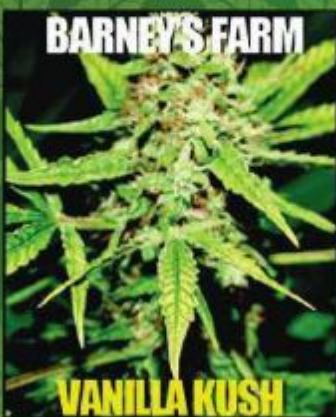
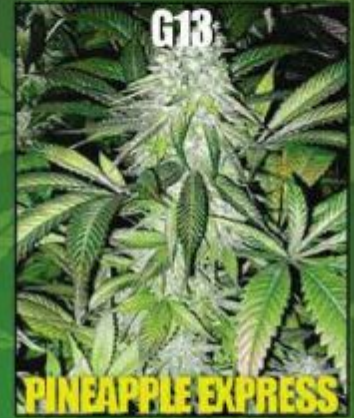
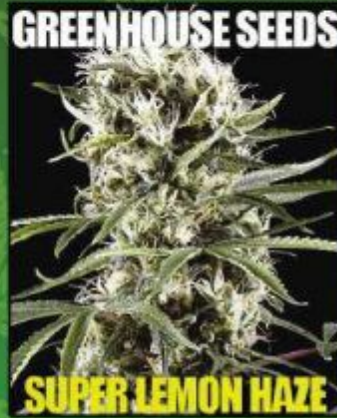
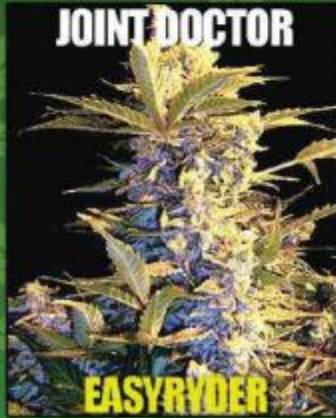
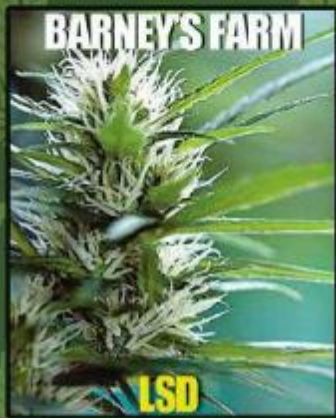
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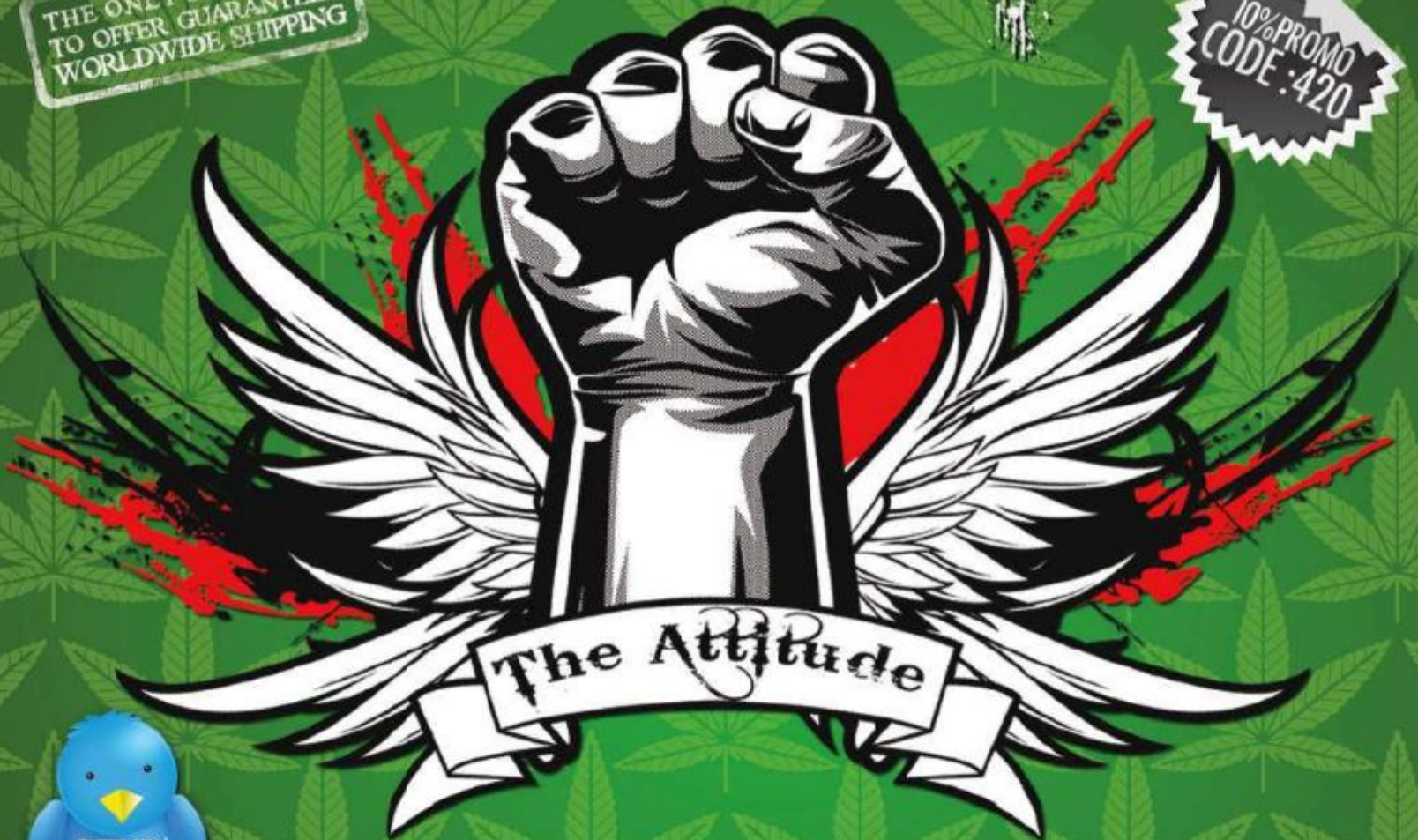
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The cannabis community convened at the HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup.

DANNY DANKO

CALIFORNIA DREAMING

If, perhaps via some hot-box time machine, a copy of this magazine—HIGH TIMES, November 2010—somehow landed in my hands way back in November of 1994, when I was a college freshman who could barely grow a beard, I can certainly say without a doubt that it would have blown my freaking mind!

First of all, the knowledge that I'd someday be the Senior Editor of this venerable publication would have gotten me through a few of those potless nights on campus with a much-improved outlook on life. But more importantly, I'd have marveled at the fact that the entire state of California could be just about to *legalize it*—once and for all—and that the city of San Francisco had grown pot-friendly enough to host the First Annual HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup (see page 62) in all its ganja glory.

Heady days indeed!

For my feature story on Proposition 19, the Regulate, Control and Tax Cannabis Act of 2010 (see page 76), I spoke at length with Richard Lee, the pot entrepreneur behind Oaksterdam University and the man who put up more than a million of his own dollars to get the initiative on the ballot. I also traveled to Humboldt County, to investigate how legalization would affect Northern Cali's traditional breadbasket of marijuana and learn what the Emerald Triangle's legendary growers are doing to get ready.

What I found there was a mix of fear and excitement, along with the pervasive sense that this state is about to make marijuana history once again. In 1996, another ballot initiative, Proposition 215, made California the first state to legalize medical marijuana—and as the HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup definitively proved, the Golden State's patients and providers have never looked back.

Highest regards,

David Bienenstock
Senior Editor, HIGH TIMES



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HIGH TIMES

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FEATURES

34 COLORADO GREENERY

BY DAN SKYE

A year ago, the Colorado medical scene was a free-for-all, with thousands of entrepreneurs jumping into the game. Now that's all changed, and only the strongest businesses will survive in a new era of government oversight.

42 CLOSET GROWING FOR SUPERIOR CANNABIS

Contributor Mr. Hades returns with a simple and informative guide to producing connoisseur-quality organic pot in your closet or other small grow space. Create a living soil filled with beneficial microbes whose symbiotic relationship with your plants' roots will help create the ultimate medicine.

52 GROWIN' IN THE 'DAM

BY NICO ESCONDIDO

Amsterdam—the city where the modern weed-growing era began, where indoor horticulture first met fine cannabis genetics. Thirty years later, what has changed, and what's stayed the same? Nico checks out some of the best Dutch grow ops to explore just where Holland is these days on the grow-room radar. Hydro, technology and genetics are all discussed—and he also gets a very rare glimpse into the Bedrocan lab, a medical-marijuana facility sanctioned by the Dutch government!

62 SAN FRAN GRAND SLAM

For two days, San Francisco hosted thousands of medical-marijuana patients, providers, activists and cultivators at the first-ever HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup, including an incredible competition to name the top medical marijuana in California.

76 TEA PARTY!

BY DAVID BIENENSTOCK

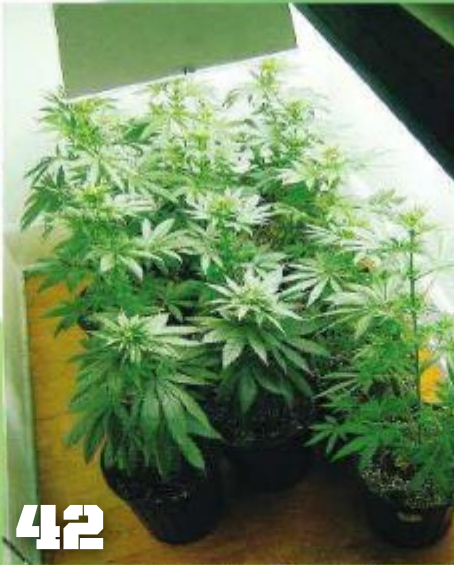
California's cannabis revolution rolls into the ballot box this November, but are voters really ready to legalize it?

86 BIG J ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

BY DAVID BIENENSTOCK

The HIGH TIMES Interview with former New Mexico governor Gary Johnson.

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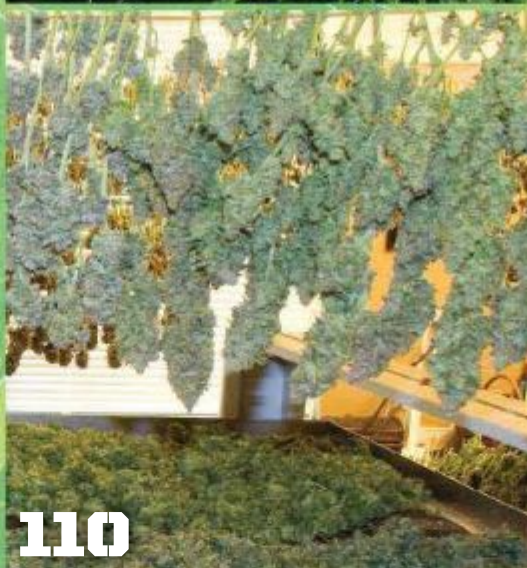
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EDITED BY DAN SKYE

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EDITED BY DANNY DANKO & NICO ESCONDIDO

Pix of the Crop; Cannabis Clinic; Munchies; NORMLizer; Freedom Fighter; Dr. Mitch; SSDP Report; Optimize Your Growing Environment, by Erik Biksa; Dear Danko.

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CALI LEGALIZATION

I was hoping to get a little more insight on the November election about legalizing marijuana in California. From what I've been reading, this bill does not seem like the best thing for the state, the grower or the smoker.

What I've read: If the bill passes, marijuana will be commercialized, prices will go down, and growers will not be able to afford to grow. This will ultimately lower the quality of the smoke. Also, if this becomes commercialized, who's to say that a company like Philip Morris won't take over—and we've all seen what they put in cigarettes!

I do understand that the state needs the revenue—*bad*—but this may destroy some areas that really depend on making their living from growing and selling marijuana. I would love for this plant that God gave us to be legalized, but at what cost? I hope I'm not suffering from paranoia, so I would love to hear your opinion on this.

Steve

Read more about the CA ballot on page 76.

WHEE 2010

It was wonderful to meet Steve Hager in person, and being a part of the local hemp festival was exciting—I was glad to participate!

Peace and hempy healing,

Darcy

MONTANA MASSACRE

I just finished reading the September '10 HIGH TIMES—fantastic issue! The thing that stunned me the most in this issue was the blurb on the Montana dispensary firebombings. While anger is the typical response, all I have is disappointment. It's bad enough that marijuana is *already* used to excuse wasteful spending by the federal government as well as our ghastly high prison-inmate rates—but now it's being used as an excuse to fire-bomb businesses! I don't get this; the anti-marijuana activists may have done our work for us. Now I'm reminded of far more serious past oppressions because of the attacks on these dispensaries. I was wondering if you all think a fund would be necessary for the owners of these places? I know there have been far more devastating disasters this year and last, but it would be horrifying to think that the owners could go bankrupt or would have to wait a great deal of time for the money to reopen. If you guys think it's a serious enough cause, I would like to give them \$100. Thanks for the wonderful magazine!

Andrew

FUNKY IN KENTUCKY

With respect, I write to you today on your article about Kentucky in the September issue, which rendered a perfect image of what life in Kentucky is like. Living here, I was glad to know that we have a little of "the scene" in our state—and yes, the backwoods around here are fields of fun. Well,



HT staff, keep doing your thing—we can hold it down in Kentucky all night long!

Chris

BUBBLING BUCKETS

As I was reading your article on recirculating deep-water culture (RDWC) in the August issue, it took me back to high school, when I wished I could smoke the most exotic weed known to man—and also that I knew how to grow some awesome pot! I remember someone told me about "aeroponics" in math class; he said the

plants were grown in the air and the roots were misted every so often. Little did I know that he was only half right! It blew my mind as to how the hell it was done—until last year, when I tried to grow, and deep-water culture (DWC) was my first attempt. I've been getting better at it ever since—with some help from HIGH TIMES! You guys rock! Smoke on!

El Dedo Verde

APPS FOR HEADS

I've been wondering what apps would be best for my 'Droid while I'm high. I think it would be really useful to know what we can do to entertain ourselves with our iPhones or Androids, so it would be cool if you ran an article on all the best apps for someone that's high.

Ammon

Download HIGH TIMES' new app, Cannex, at hightimes.com/app.

CLEAN CUP, MOVE DOWN

I found the article in your August issue about the Tea Party, "Wal-Mart Hippies on the March," to be slightly off. Paul Krassner focused on the Glenn Beck/Sarah Palin side of the Tea Partiers (which I believe he characterized excellently, by the way). But why not focus on the Ron Paul/Rand Paul side of the Tea Party, which is fighting for freedom and liberty—including the freedom to smoke and sell pot! I think it's always more advantageous to point out potential allies instead of commenting on loudmouthed enemies. I think the Tea Party candidates being nominated in many states could be the means to spread the policy of ending marijuana prohibition.

Thanks for your time, and keep up the good work! PS: I loved the article on hash.

Ethan

ERRATA

In the September 2010 issue, the Chronic Cocktail Hat worn by Natasha Lewin was created by milliner Katie Burley. For more information, check out katieburley.com.

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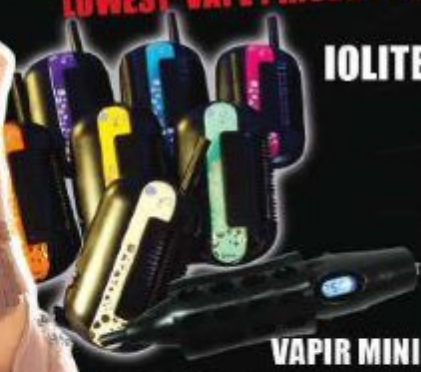
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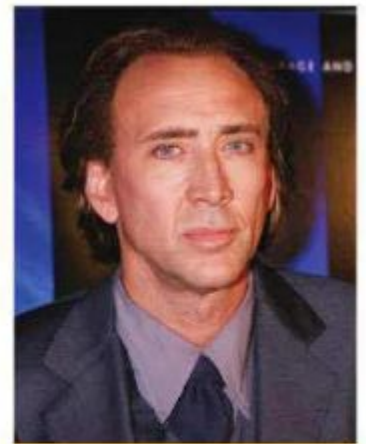
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HT Managing Editor Natasha Lewin checks out Big Bambú.

NEW YORK STATE OF KIND

With nearly 20 million residents, New York is the third-biggest state in the nation, just after California and Texas. So it's heartening to hear that a significant majority of New Yorkers support legal medical marijuana—despite the fact that no med-pot bills made it out of the State Legislature this year. According to a poll released by the Cornell University Survey Research Institute, medical marijuana has majority support across every single age group, including 65 percent or higher among everyone except those over 65.



CAGE THIS CAT

On *Late Night with David Letterman*, actor Nicolas Cage told the world that he only eats the meat of animals that engage in “dignified sex.” He also confessed that he once shroomed with his cat: “I had a bag of mushrooms in my refrigerator. My cat used to sneak into the refrigerator and eat them. The cat ate them voraciously, so I thought what the heck, I better do it with him. I remember lying on my bed for hours, and Lewis was on the desk across my bed, and we just stared at each other for hours—not moving, just staring at each other. And I had no doubt that he was my brother.”

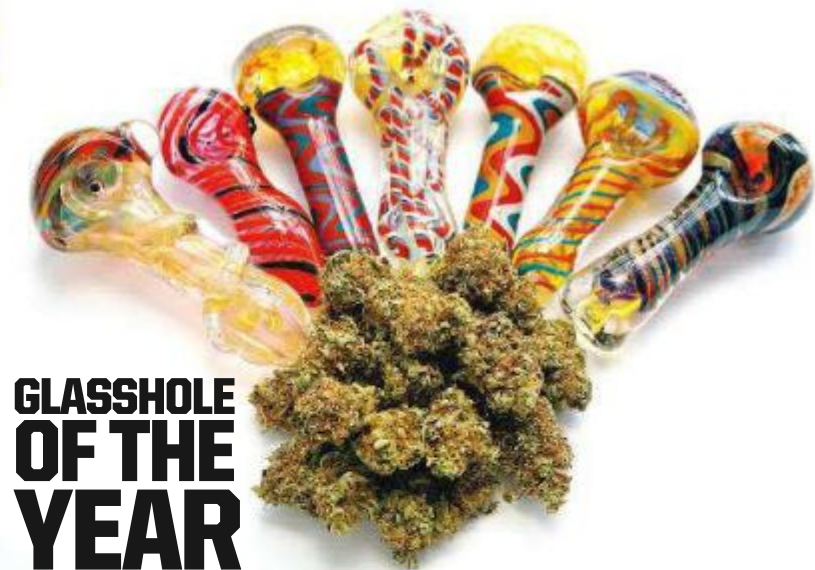
We're speechless.

BAMBOOZLED

Even high art has gotten, well, *high* ... in more ways than one! Artists (and twin brothers) Doug and Mike Starn have built a bonanza of bamboo atop the Metropolitan Museum of Art in Manhattan. The installation, dubbed *Big Bambú*, is a continuous work in progress that, at its highest point, will measure 50 feet above the Met's already impressive rooftop garden. Boasting over 7,000 poles, *Big Bambú* is a constantly changing structure that resembles either a giant bird's nest or cresting wave, complete with 25- to-40-foot elevated pathways that can be traversed only via a guided tour.

Mike and Doug got their inspiration for the installation's name back in their high-school days in the '70s, when their long hair and identical-twin status earned them the moniker “Cheech & Chong.” As they were planning and building their massive bamboo structure, they nicknamed it “Big Bambú” after the famous C&C album, and the name stuck.

Big Bambú will be open until October 31 (weather permitting). For more info, go to met-museum.org.



GLASSHOLE OF THE YEAR

On July 1, Florida's anti-bong law went into effect prohibiting the sale of most paraphernalia in stores. This pretty much put headshops out of business. The grandstanding politician responsible for the measure was Democrat Rep. Darryl Rouson who assumes he can speak for the entire state: “Florida has a conscience and an awareness that marijuana and the smoking and ingesting of it is not healthy for an individual, nor is it healthy for public safety and the order in society.”

Uh-huh. That must be why Florida is the #2 state in America for indoor growing. Rouson also said “I've been fighting the pipe industry for the longest time, because it is all a part of the drug trade and the criminal enterprise that we know exists and destroys neighborhoods, families and order in our society.” Our response: “Politicians like Rouson are part of a charade and the shameless enterprise that we know exists and destroys truth, justice, and sows disorder in our society.”

KICKING COCAINE

In Bogotá, Colombia, just before the conclusion of the World Cup, police seized a box at the airport packed with soccer jerseys—and what appeared to be the World Cup trophy itself! But the cops noticed that the Cup's gold paint looked a little shabby, so they chipped off a sample and sent it to the lab.

Red card!

The trophy turned out to be 24 pounds of cocaine. The real World Cup is 18-carat solid gold, but weighs only 13.6 pounds. Lab tests confirmed that the coke had to have been mixed with acetone or petrol to make it into a paste that could then be molded into the *fútbol* fake.

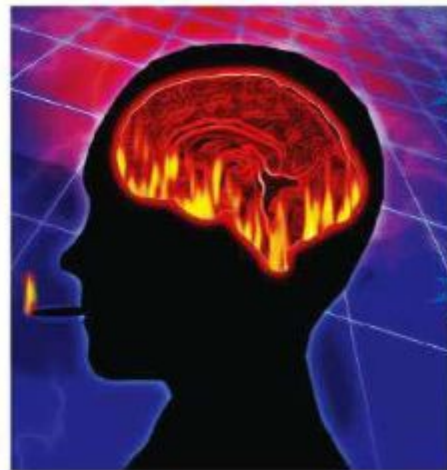
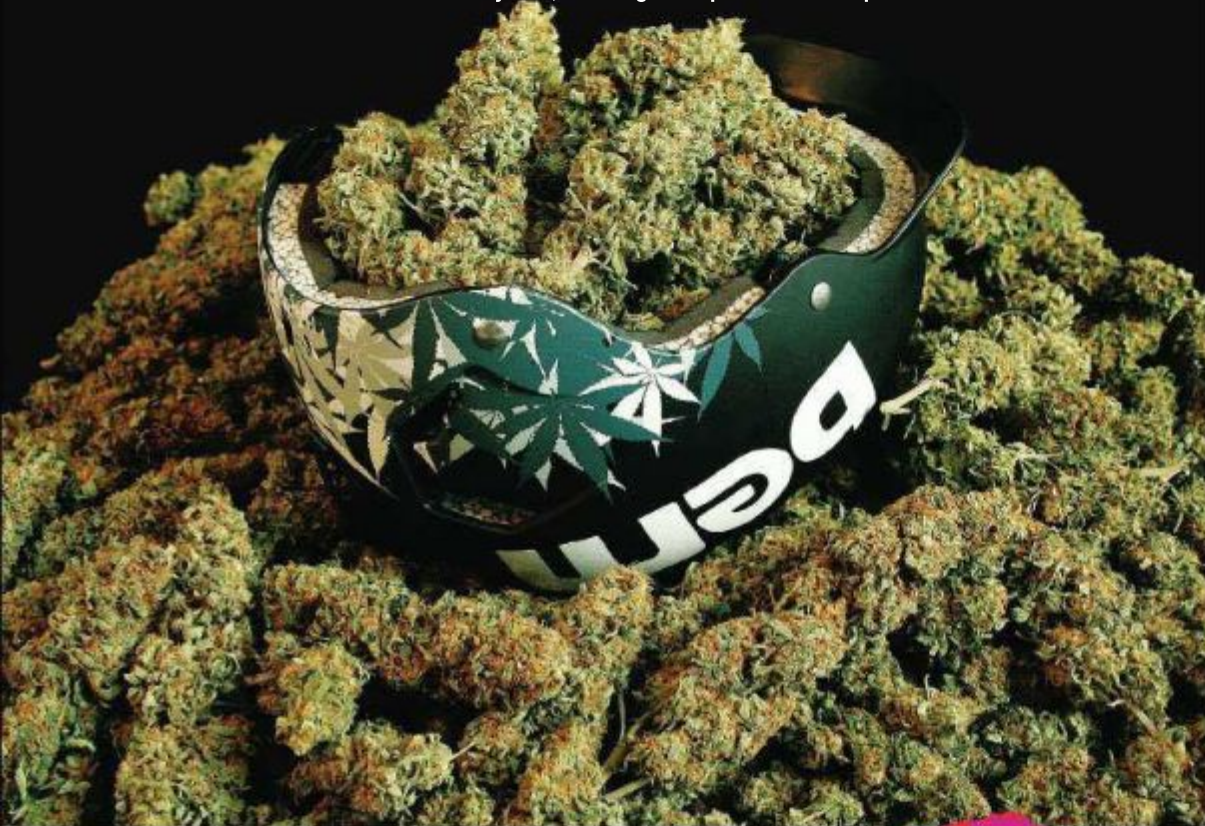


SNOW JOB

Recent changes to Colorado law have made the cultivation of up to six cannabis plants or the possession of two ounces or less of marijuana a misdemeanor only. Thus has a paradise been created for stoner skiers and riders—unless you work for Vail Resorts or one of its many ski areas, including Keystone, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Heavenly and (of course) Vail.

The company has long enjoyed the economic benefits of Colorado's thriving cannabis scene, and management has routinely turned a blind eye to the "smoke shacks" scattered across Vail Resorts' ski areas. (Smoke shacks are illegally built structures used for toking up on the slopes.) However, Vail employees aren't so lucky: A failed piss test can result in insurance cuts, suspension or termination—even if a worker is a legal medical-marijuana patient in the state. However, no such penalties exist for Vail employees who pop pills or get sloppy drunk every night.

Even so, it's hardly an industry secret that vacationing skiers and snowboarders are avid pot smokers. Breckenridge in particular seems to be profiting handsomely by recognizing the preferences of its residents and clientele: It's home to the busiest ski area on the planet, posting skier numbers and profits like no other. Breckenridge also boasts no less than nine medical-marijuana dispensaries—and, last fall, its residents voted to decriminalize marijuana, allowing adult possession of up to two ounces.—Al Fisher



MARIJUANA: THE SMART DRUG

Dr. Gary Wenk, Ph.D., is a professor of psychology, neuroscience, molecular virology, immunology and medical genetics at Ohio State University. We're gonna go out on a limb here and assume that Wenk is a really smart dude. In the July issue of *Psychology Today*, he published an article discussing his latest research. His conclusion: Pot stimulates the brain's cannabinoid receptors, which in turn may mitigate the consequences of stroke, chronic pain and neuro-inflammation.

As Wenk wrote: "Research in my laboratory has demonstrated that stimulating the brain's marijuana receptors may offer protection by reducing brain inflammation and by restoring neurogenesis. Thus, later in life, marijuana might actually help your brain, rather than harm it. It takes very little marijuana to produce benefits in the older brain; my colleague in France, Dr. Yannick Marchalant, coined the motto 'a puff is enough' because it appears as though only a single puff each day is necessary to produce significant benefit."

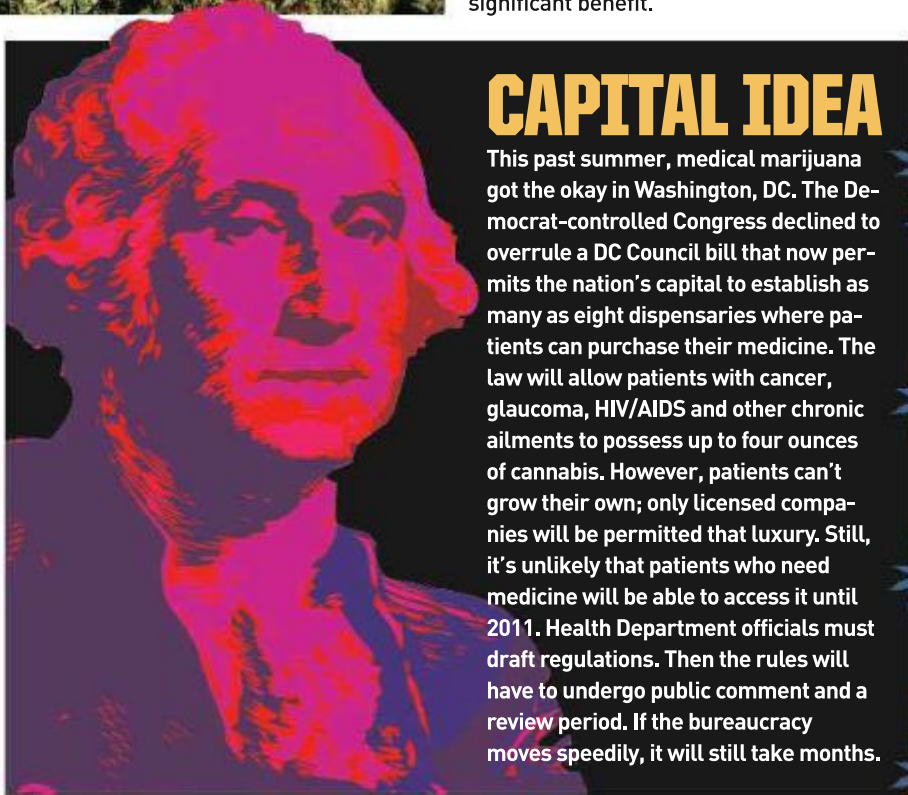
GOD, THC AND THE DEA

Pride, envy, gluttony, lust, anger, greed, sloth ... we're not sure which of the Seven Deadly Sins smoking pot falls under, but evidently the DEA is convinced that God hates THC—something that Hawaii's THC Ministry recently discovered.

As its name suggests, the THC Ministry engages in the sacramental use of cannabis. Its website states that membership helps to protect from "arrest, prosecution and/or conviction on marijuana charges—wherever you live." The ministry also states that a sincere practitioner can mount a legitimate religious-use defense.

That premise will now be tested. Last March, DEA and IRS agents raided THC's offices as well as the home of Roger Christie, the ministry's leader. But it wasn't until July that Christie and 13 others were formally charged; they now face federal marijuana manufacturing, possession and distribution charges. Christie sees things differently: "We provide cannabis sacraments, and we're happy to do so. It's a sacred thing to us. We're standing for religious freedom, using cannabis in private, at home or church. And it's a blessed, beautiful thing."

But according to the Feds, religious freedom doesn't include pot-enhanced prayer. Florence Nakakuni, the US Attorney for Hawaii, maintains that the THC Ministry went through over half a pound of marijuana a day and served up to 70 customers daily.

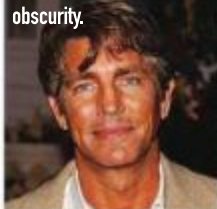


CAPITAL IDEA

This past summer, medical marijuana got the okay in Washington, DC. The Democrat-controlled Congress declined to overrule a DC Council bill that now permits the nation's capital to establish as many as eight dispensaries where patients can purchase their medicine. The law will allow patients with cancer, glaucoma, HIV/AIDS and other chronic ailments to possess up to four ounces of cannabis. However, patients can't grow their own; only licensed companies will be permitted that luxury. Still, it's unlikely that patients who need medicine will be able to access it until 2011. Health Department officials must draft regulations. Then the rules will have to undergo public comment and a review period. If the bureaucracy moves speedily, it will still take months.

THIS MONTH IN **SHOWBUZZ**

Roberts kicks
obscurity.



CELEBRITY (CAREER) REHAB

Eric Roberts, who actually starred in some pretty good movies back in the day (*Star 80*, *The Pope of Greenwich Village*), has signed up as a cast member on VH1's *Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew*, allegedly to be treated for an addiction to medical marijuana. A rep for Roberts, who has abused cocaine and alcohol in the past, released this statement: "It is not for any serious drug/substance, or prescription drug abuse problem. Eric wishes to express his genuine thanks for the concern for his well-being, and appreciates the support of his family, friends and fans."

That would be *ex-fans*. While millions of Americans use marijuana responsibly without suffering addiction and the medical community champions its benefits, a Hollywood has-been smears the plant in exchange for a little TV face-time. Pathetic.

IT HELPS TO BE A ROCK STAR

In late July, the tour bus of Poison frontman Bret Michaels was stopped in Indiana by police because it had no trailer tag lights.

The overzealous cops then decided it was necessary to search the vehicle with drug-sniffing dogs. They found pot and other substances on the bus, but no arrests were made; instead, citations were issued and the bus continued on its way. The evidence has been forwarded to the county prosecutor to figure out what action should be taken.

We don't resent Bret's easy treatment, but we'll bet most tokers in the Hoosier State are nowhere near as lucky.



Bret's
great
escape.

FINALLY FAMOUS FOR SOMETHING

Name one thing Paris Hilton is famous for ... okay, besides that.

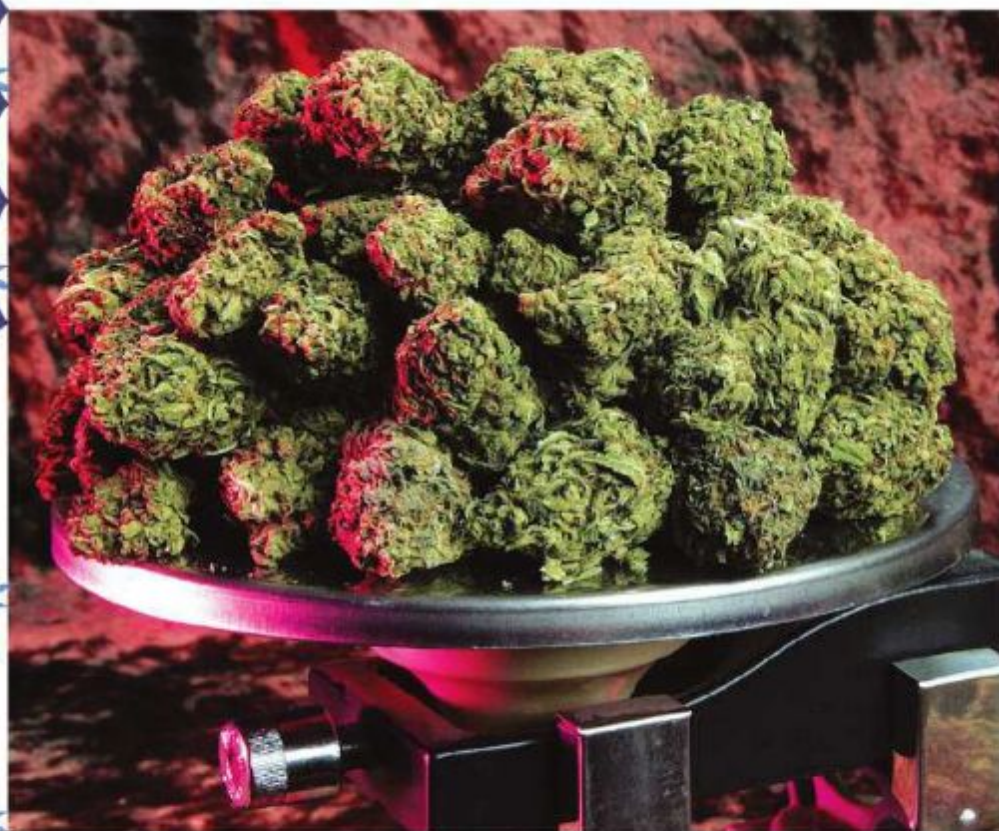
We're pleased to announce that Paris has found her niche, recently showing off an incredible



Paris skates again!

knack for getting popped with pot and walking away! At the World Cup, she was briefly detained for possession, but a friend piped up and said the pot was hers. Then, just 10 days later at the Corsica airport, Paris was detained for 30 minutes after the cops found less than a gram in her purse. Again, she was sprung.

Way to go, Paris! Still, celebs certainly do seem to receive a different brand of justice.



THE \$38 OUNCE

Legal pot may bring about a drastic reduction in marijuana prices.

In yet another sign that full-scale cannabis legalization is approaching, the RAND Corporation, a well-known American think tank, released a six-month study in July that predicted a drastic reduction in pot prices in the event of legalization. The study projects that if marijuana becomes legal in California this November with the passage of Proposition 19, the cost of pot in the competitive retail market could plunge a whopping 80 percent—to as low as \$38 an ounce, or \$1.50 per joint. Regular cannabis users in California may have reason to rejoice; they typically spend \$300 to \$500 a month on pot, even if it's purchased at medical-marijuana dispensaries, where the prices persist in reflecting the black market.

Interestingly, though it's repeatedly described in the mainstream media as "nonpartisan," the Santa Monica, CA-based RAND Corporation was founded in 1946 by the Douglas Aircraft Company (later McDonnell Douglas, a charter member of the military-industrial complex) and has been instrumental in creating US military and national-security policy since the 1950s—policies that most cannabis activists would generally oppose. So its conclusions on topics like marijuana legalization should be viewed with a discerning eye.

Formally titled "Assessing How Marijuana Legalization in California Could Influence Marijuana Consumption and Public Budgets," the RAND report sought to construct a model based on estimates of current consumption, current and future prices and taxes levied, along with non-price issues (such as a reduction in the social stigma of smoking pot). Media reports have generally focused on the study's finding that the annual tax revenue from legalized pot could vary greatly depending on retail prices, with the totals

either much higher or much lower than the \$1.4 billion projected by the State Board of Equalization in 2009. But even if the tax revenues are less than a billion, who cares? California is so desperately in need of money that any funds generated from legalized pot would certainly be welcomed (as though legalization wouldn't be worth it if it produces "only" \$750 million a year).

The RAND report also suggests that legalization will inevitably increase consumption once the fear of being arrested and/or losing one's job lessens, and warns of a new "black market" in pot if the \$50-per-ounce tax proposed in State Senator Tom Ammiano's Assembly Bill 2254 is formally adopted. (Ammiano has delayed action on his bill until after the Prop. 19 vote.) But here again, is this a case of RAND emphasizing the negative? With marijuana so cheap, even at \$100 an ounce (with special taxes and the regular sales tax figured in), how many people would risk breaking the law just to save \$50? While some obviously will, the widespread availability of cheap, legal pot as well as the option of growing your own makes the threat of a new intra-state black market somewhat improbable.

However, two realistic effects of legalization in California are addressed by the study. The first is a potentially dramatic upsurge in Amsterdam-style tourism to the Golden State. The second is the notion that out-of-state residents could buy legal weed in California, then sell it at black-market rates in other states. But even here, this phenomenon could actually hasten the welcome spread of legalization, especially in neighboring West Coast states such as Oregon and Washington, which have generally been more tolerant of marijuana than the rest of the nation.—Mark Miller

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– Roger Ebert, *Chicago Sun-Times*

"A funny BLACK COMEDY"

– Jan Stuart, *Screendaily.com*

ORGANIC LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE "LEAVES OF GRASS" OWN GRASS

STARRING:

From Actor/Writer/Director

EDWARD NORTON KERI RUSSELL TIM BLAKE NELSON

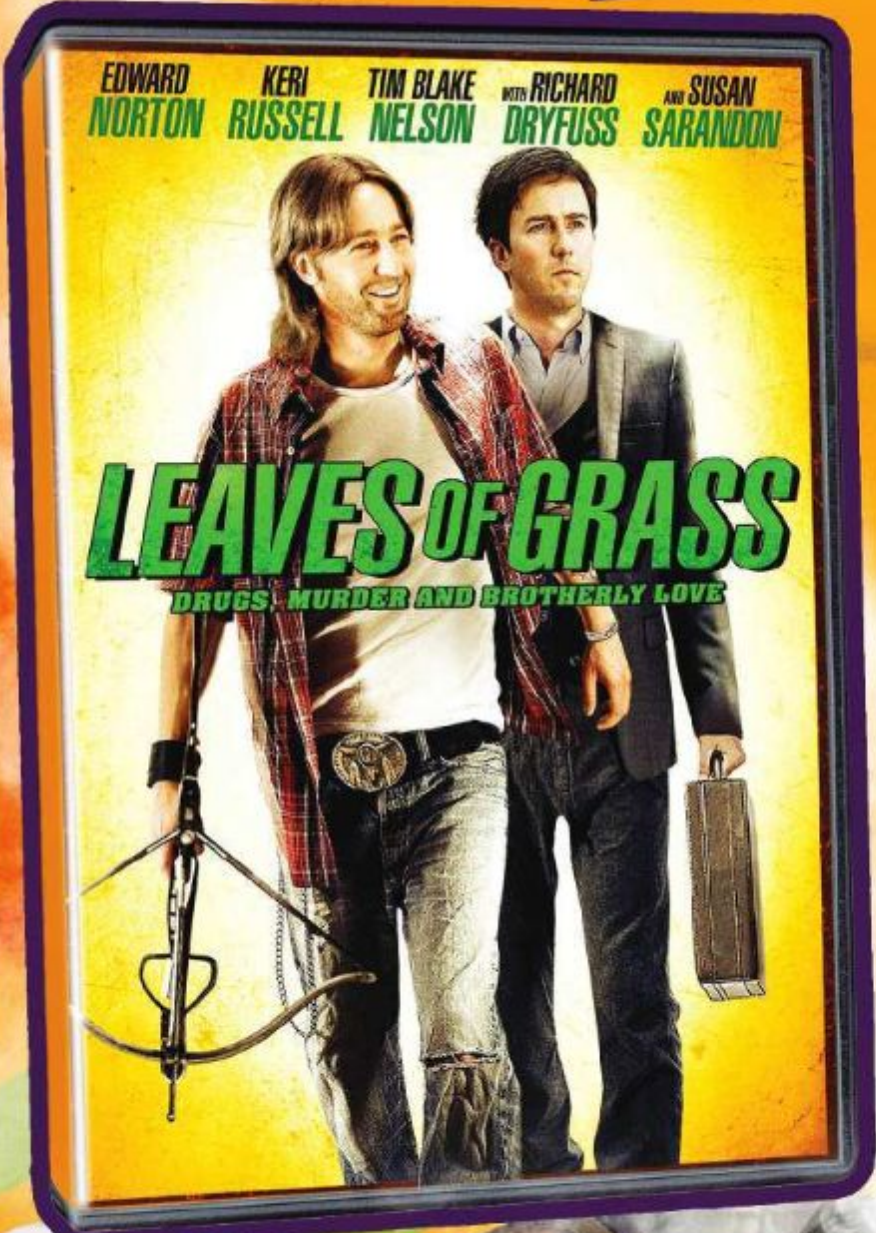
With RICHARD DREYFUSS And SUSAN SARANDON

In *Leaves of Grass*, a new dark comedy, Edward Norton plays identical twins – one an Ivy League professor on the academic fast track, the other a down-home pot grower drifting into dangerous waters. What brings the two together, for better and worse, is a massive, state-of-the-art, nutrient-film-technique hydro setup secreted away in a Quonset hut in the backwaters of rural Oklahoma.

When Bill Kincaid gets a call that his black-sheep brother Brady has been murdered with a crossbow, he escapes his ivory tower and returns home to his humble roots for the first time in many years, only to find the cannabis cultivator in question alive and well – not to mention in deep shit with the violence-prone financier of his \$200,000 "Taj Mahal" of hydroponics.

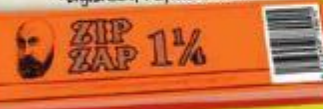
—David Bienenstock, *High Times Magazine*

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GLASS WAREFARE

If you're wandering around Humboldt County from October 1 to 3, check out the fifth annual Female Flameoff in Arcata, CA. Top glassblowers of the fairer sex will fight it out, individually and in teams, to create glass art in three categories—functional sculpture (pipes and such), wearables (rings, necklaces, etc.), plus a “mystery theme”—within a specified time limit. The event is free to the public, and all proceeds from sales of the pieces will benefit a variety of charities.

Visit femaleflameoff.com.



At the Female Flameoff the competition is hot, to say the least!

STONED & THE CITY

The mainstream press is constantly rating the best and worst cities in the US, so we decided to add to the noise. Here's a HIGH TIMES look at the good, the bad and the ugly of *herb-an* America. By Mark Miller

THE GOOD

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—A stellar city for stoners, boasting a rich marijuana history, top NorCal strains, progressive government attitudes and lowest-priority police enforcement.

BOULDER, CO—Famously lax toward personal cannabis consumption, and pot quality here is consistently solid. Bonus points for the thin Rocky Mountain air, which amps your buzz.

MADISON, WI—Legendary college party town. High-grade bud and lots of open toking, especially when disc golfing breaks out. Tales abound of arrestees with dozens of plants avoiding jail time.

LOUISVILLE, KY—Grass is Kentucky's No. 1 cash crop. Cops tend to be more lax in the bigger cities. Pot's an important source of revenue in this low-income state. Schwag hasn't been seen in over 10 years.

PORTLAND, ME—Both Portlands are great, but Portland, ME, hasn't gotten the cred it deserves. Excellent weed here, plus more casual law enforcement than many other cities on the uptight East Coast.

ANN ARBOR, MI—Another great Midwestern college town and the site of the annual springtime Hash Bash. Recreational possession incurs a small fine here. A welcome oasis in the otherwise schwaggy and herb-unfriendly Wolverine State.

BOSTON, MA—Even though the decrim laws are great (just \$100 for an ounce, possible probation for more), Beantown barely makes the cut in this category. Why? The prices are outrageous! How can bud be so much cheaper in nearby Canada?

HONORABLE MENTION: HAWAII COUNTY, HI—As of 2008, anyone over 21 can privately cultivate and possess up to 24 plants or 24 ounces. And it's actually illegal here for the county government to receive marijuana-eradication funds!

THE BAD

CHICAGO, IL—The Windy City may be a major hub for illegal drugs, but there are way too many dry spells, and the cops are still intolerant toward tokers.

NEW YORK CITY, NY—No surprise: The prices here are the highest in America. A quarter of kind bud costs a solid \$150; eighths are as high as \$90! Plus, expect a legal hassle for public smoking.

PHILADELPHIA, PA—The DA's office has decided to stop incarcerating those busted with 30 grams or less. But the cops say they'll keep arresting pot smokers as usual. Weed still too pricey at \$65 an eighth.

WASHINGTON, DC—Finding a connection in DC is like cracking a CIA code: Stoners are ultra-secretive about revealing their source due to jeopardizing future govern-

ment-related careers. Police are generally pretty tolerant, but prices are steep.

LOS ANGELES, CA—Nearly everyone tokes, but LA still needs a makeover in terms of its med-pot policies and prices to match the Bay Area. Still, SoCal bud rocks!

THE UGLY

LITTLE ROCK, AR—Maybe *the* single worst city for pot—mostly low-grade Mexi. *Yuck*. (Now we know why Clinton didn't inhale.) Any possession could mean the slammer.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK—Too much schwag in the Sooner State, and you'll lose your driver's license after a pot bust ... even if you're on foot!

ST. LOUIS, MO—Stone Age drug laws: a possible year in jail for possession? (Though simple possession usually gets you drug court.) Also, frequent dry-spell blues.

DALLAS, TX—A scarcity of good bud and an aggressive, militaristic police force make regular pot smoking a challenge.

LAS VEGAS, NV—Good bud is available, but possession of over an ounce is dangerous: a felony charge with fines and possible jail. Under an ounce gets harsh treatment, too—especially for multiple arrests.

PHOENIX, AZ—Too much Mexi bud and police enforcement. Simple possession can result in jail or drug class.

INDIANAPOLIS—General intolerance and shitty weed. More than 30 grams may get you six months and a \$10,000 fine. Hoosiers depend on the college towns for good bud.



VICTORY FOR VETS

In “The Thin Green Line” (June '10 HT), we detailed how veterans were being kicked out of pain-management programs by the Veterans Administration for using medical marijuana, and how the group Veterans for Medical Marijuana Access was lobbying to change this policy. On July 24, the VA released a new directive stating that veterans will now be allowed to use medical marijuana in states where it is legal without fear of being cut off from their other pain medications. While VA doctors are still prohibited from recommending medical marijuana as a treatment, this is undeniably a huge milestone: the first time a federal agency has recognized the medicinal value of cannabis.

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The merchandise of C420online got a close inspection.



Haight Solid State LEDs lit up the expo.



The super-size jars of CannaFresh were a super-size hit.



Attendees could spin a roulette wheel for pot and prizes.



Glass smokeware lovers flocked to Phat Tubz.

AN INDUSTRY ON THE RISE

Over two days in San Francisco, the HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup Expo showcased the burgeoning cannabis industry. By Danny Danko

On June 18 and 19, the City by the Bay hosted the inaugural HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup Expo. There was a bit of *Field of Dreams* to the scene: *If you build it, they will come!*

And guess what? They did!

Thousands walked among the booths stocked with live pot plants and clones, dispensary displays of buds and concentrates, as well as every manner of product for consuming cannabis in every possible form.

In the Prop. 215 area, where the cannabis community medicated throughout the weekend, cannabis fans networked under the sunny San Francisco skies. Tinctures, vaporizers and even a couple of impromptu outdoor "hash bars" had the crowds buzzing, while celebrity chef Chris Bliss kept tokers fueled with his exquisite cuisine.

The state-of-the-art growing and harvesting equipment on display included growboxes from BC Northern Lights, stackable Spinners from Hydroplex, LED lighting from Haight Solid State,

Stealth Grow LED, and Hydro-Gro LLC, plus a variety of heavy-duty trimmers from Trimpro. Post-harvest Boldt Bags were snapped up by buyers eager to convert their leftover trimmings into hash.

California's most respected medical-marijuana providers, Harborside Health Center of Oakland and the Berkeley Patients Group, showed off their pre-screened and tested cannabis varieties. The two organizations have been a force for enlightenment on their respective local scenes, improving their communities through outreach and engagement.

The locals from Medithrive ran a "Name That Strain" game, giving away free eighths every hour, while the C420 dispensary offered patients a chance to spin the roulette wheel to win clones, brownies and other fine California medicine.

Other area stalwarts like the Vapor Room Cooperative, NorCal Herbal Relief Center and Green Door wowed the hometown crowd with high-quality merchandise, while the Angel's Care dispensary showcased its delicious coconut-cannabis drink.

Greenway Compassionate Relief from Santa Cruz promoted clones, tinctures and edibles, while Steep Hill Labs from Oakland used the expo as a platform to emphasize the benefits of testing for THC, CBD and CBN levels, as well as any pesticide residue or powdery mildew present on medical marijuana.

To enter the outdoor Prop. 215 area, proper paperwork was required, and attendees had to be genuine med-pot patients. Not to worry, though—doctors from Be Legally Green were on hand to assess the status of potential patients and provide temporary medical recommendations to those who qualified.

Hundreds took advantage of this teeming yet convivial toking territory, where every booth provided smoking options and giant quarter-pound joints magically appeared at 4:20 p.m. Attendees managed to leave far more stoned than when they came, especially after trying the Essential VAAAPP from Essential Herbal Technologies, who have created a water-pipe attachment called the Vape20 that elevates the bubble-hash or budder experience



Stealth LEDs brought the best and the brightest.



Green Door San Francisco's booth sparkled in the sun.



The Harborside open hash bar was a magnet for tokers.



Judges played "Name That Strain" at Meditrive.



The extraordinary grow-boxes of BC Northern Lights got rave reviews.



Greenway took top honors for edibles.



Swerve (right) of Cali Connection with his cultivation crew.



Zong's Two-kink Jack Herer bong took top honors.

BEST PRODUCT

1. A tie between Essential Herbal Technologies' new Eclipse Vape_{2.0} and Stealth Grow's LEDs
2. Grassroots for the "HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup" hat
3. A tie between Canna Fresh Jars and Boldt Bags

BEST GLASS

1. Zong's two-kink Jack Herer bong
2. Glass Sliders
3. "Sea Life" by Voorhees and Christina Cody

BEST EXPO BOOTH

1. The Humboldt Patients Resource Center
2. A tie between Cmaz Glass and the Green Door
3. Stealth Grow LEDs



We couldn't agree more!

to cosmic levels. Also delightful was the Herb Iron, a ceramic heating element that warms up hash to the perfect temperature for clean consumption. Super-clean hits were also produced by the Zephyr Iron Vaporizer, a digital vape featuring a similar heating-element technology, while the Labworx Skillet not only heats up hash, but swivels as well—just one more innovative way to consume hashish or other concentrated cannabis products.

Incredibowl Industries showcased their popular line of shotgun-style pipes that boast an excellent delivery system. The crowds also loved the new, mini Incredibowls from these two-time HT Cannabis Cup Product Award winners. The stealthy Allin1E one-hitters were a big hit as well; they have everything you need to take on the run, supplying a lighter, poker and grinder all in one tiny storage case. And, of course, attendees flocked to the classic Glass Slider, which allows tokers to eliminate ash as the pot burns, so every hit stays as fresh as the first.

The outdoor area also featured top cultivation stars like Subcool and MzJill of TGA/Subcool Seeds, who offered this reporter samples of their Third Dimension, Vortex and Chernobyl strains, as well a taste of their glycerin-based purple tincture made from violet-colored nugs.

Swerve, who oversees the Cali Connection seed company, was proud to render many a judge stoned to the bone. His specialty comprises the Kushy strains like Tahoe, Larry and SFV, all fresh versions of the Connection's famous Kush.

BC Bud Depot displayed mouthwatering shots of their classic Purps as well as the Black, a new, darker strain from the Vancouver area. Sacred Plant Medicine of Washington State was on hand with unique, potent pot from the Pacific Northwest as well as an all-day DJ booth. Stony Girl Gardens out of Oregon proudly posed with their 35-day-flowering, organic Cripit strain.

Best of all, many of the dispensaries were able to sell rooted clones and mother plants

openly to their prospective growers.

But if you've got buds, you gotta store 'em! At the forefront of the storage pack is Canna Fresh, provider of high-quality jars for patients and larger, customized glass containers for medical-marijuana dispensaries, all designed to keep their products at maximum freshness.

For cannabis sticklers, stackable Kindstacks are an excellent way to separate and store three or more strains, providing both purity and portability. Likewise, the 420 jars and scopes from 420 Science allow cannabis aficionados to store and inspect their stash anywhere. Along with Dime Bags' bong-carrying backpack, the "Indica Hemp" gear from Sativa Bags, and the "I 'Heart' Stoner Girls" T-shirts from Not for Pot, stoner style meant plenty of stoner cash sales!

All expo attendees were also judges and voted on the best products, booths and glassware they encountered over the course of this cannabis weekend. Judgement Day has never been sweeter. ✨

THMQ

Trans-High Market Quotations (THMQ) reports pot prices by the ounce, strain and location. To submit prices, go to the THMQ link at hightimes.com.

CURRENT US PRICE INDEX: **\$357** (last month: \$334; YTD: \$358)

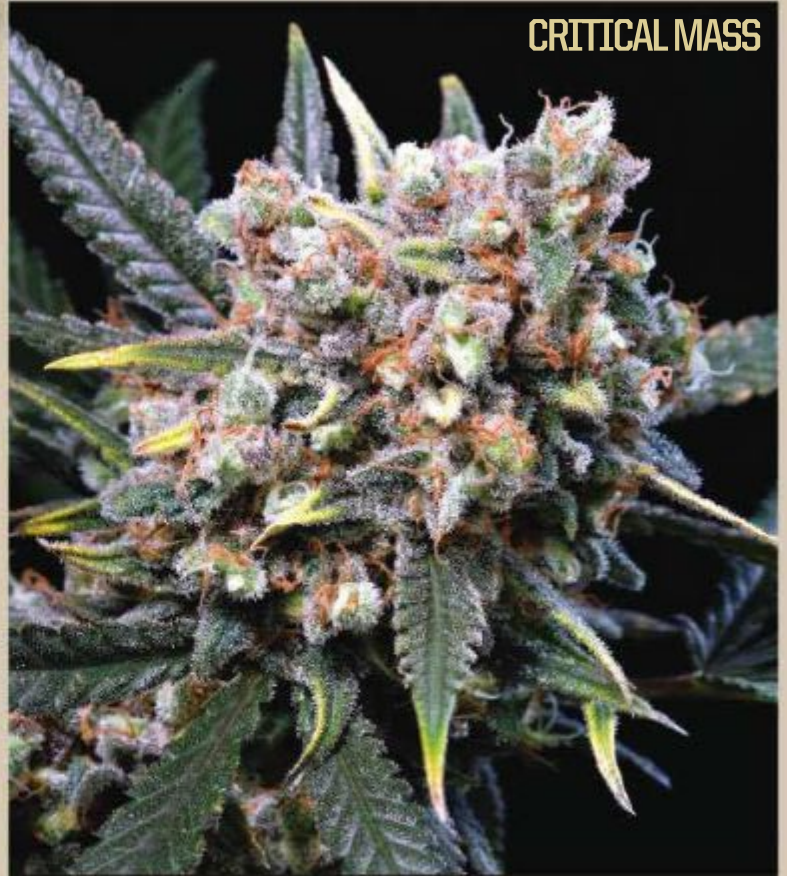
CURRENT KIND INDEX (\$350+ PER OZ): **\$418** (\$413, \$425)

CURRENT MIDS INDEX (\$150-\$349 PER OZ): **\$262** (\$265, \$276)

CURRENT SCHWAG INDEX (\$1-\$149 PER OZ): **\$87** (\$84, \$95)

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE	
CALIFORNIA	Hanford Los Angeles Oroville	Blueberry	\$200	
		Sour Diesel	\$325	
		Purple Wreck	\$350	
		Chemdog	\$400	
		Grape Ape	\$225	
	Porterville San Jose Tulare	Chocolope	\$350	
		Grapefruit Haze	\$350	
		Purple Kush	\$250	
		COLORADO		
		Craig Denver	Pure Power Plant	\$385
UK Cheese	\$300			
FLORIDA	Miami	God Bud	\$350	
GEORGIA	Alpharetta Atlanta	Bubba Kush	\$400	
		Sour Diesel	\$475	
		OG Kush	\$475	
		Sweet Island Skunk	\$450	
KENTUCKY	Ashland	Pure Power Plant	\$600	
		Crimea Blue	\$550	
LOUISIANA	Baton Rouge	Blueberry Kush	\$420	
		Granddaddy Purple	\$550	
MARYLAND	Baltimore	Jack Herer	\$400	
		Diesel	\$400	
		White Widow	\$400	
MASSACHUSETTS	Boston	MK-Ultra	\$450	
		AK-47	\$500	
		Sweet Tooth	\$400	
		Blue Dream	\$420	
MICHIGAN	Detroit	Sour Diesel	\$500	
MONTANA	Anaconda Helena Kalispell	Diesel	\$250	
		Purple Kush	\$350	
		Headband	\$250	
		Strawberry Cough	\$250	
		White Widow	\$280	
NEBRASKA	Lincoln	Lemon Kush	\$300	
		Super Lemon Haze	\$300	
NEVADA	Gardnerville	Sour Dragon	\$380	
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Concord	Purple Urkel	\$310	
NEW YORK	Rochester	Northern Lights	\$320	
PENNSYLVANIA	Pittsburgh	Trainwreck	\$350	
		Strawberry Kush	\$390	
		G-13	\$390	
TENNESSEE	Chattanooga	Raspberry Diesel	\$400	
		Jack Herer	\$400	
	Jackson	Granddaddy Purps	\$500	
		Blue Dream	\$550	
TEXAS	Austin Dallas Houston	White Widow	\$350	
		OG Kush	\$400	
		Trainwreck	\$375	
VERMONT	Rutland	Master Kush	\$400	
VIRGINIA	Rockingham County	Mr. Nice Guy	\$380	
WASHINGTON	Yelm	Bubba Kush	\$280	
INTERNATIONAL (prices listed in Canadian dollars):				
CANADA	Charlottetown Grande Prairie Toronto	Jack Herer	C\$200	
		Blackberry Kush	C\$200	
		Sensi Star	C\$250	

CRITICAL MASS



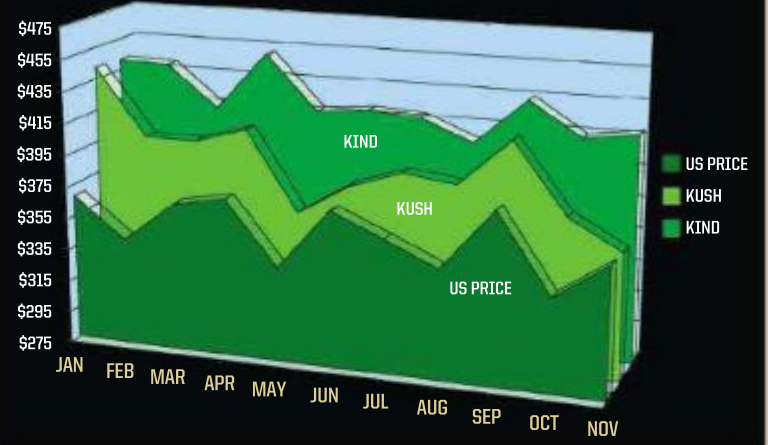
MARKET ANALYSIS

To no one's surprise, Kush was the most submitted strain in November, with Diesel finishing a close second. Oddly, the top five submitted strains are the exact same strains—in the exact same order—for the third consecutive month. Once again, Kush's average price dropped from its previous month's average (-\$18); Kush's average price is now down \$62 from September. The top five submitted strains (with average price) were Kush (\$355), Diesel (\$392), Purps (\$389), Haze (\$325) and Trainwreck (\$358).

Index Watch: All indices rose slightly from October with the exception of Mids (-\$3); the US Price Index experienced the month's biggest increase (+\$23).

HIGH TIMES wants to know what you're smoking. Submit your strain information, including location and price by the ounce, to thmq@hightimes.com.

AVERAGE PRICE 2010



Purple Wreck - \$350

Oroville, CALIFORNIA

"Fruity-smelling goodness. Very dense, large nugs blanketed with crystals. Grown indoors."

Sweet Island Skunk - \$450

Atlanta, GEORGIA

"Grown locally, perfect cure, perfect representation of this strain."

Bubba Kush - \$400

Alpharetta, GEORGIA

"Extravagant—this sour-piney Kush is a mind-bender that just makes your mouth water uncontrollably. The physical appearance is easily described: super-tight nugs with mountains of crystals. Sit back and enjoy!"

Crimea Blue - \$550

Ashland, KENTUCKY

"Organic hydro grown with Botanicare nutes. Powerful *indica* punch that's great for pain relief; also very good for neurological problems. Large buds smell and taste like blueberries and spicy hash. No paranoia as with some strains this potent—impossible to have a negative thought!"

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CAGE FRIE

Chris Palko, a.k.a. Cage, Survives His Walk on the Wild Side. By Chris Parker



Cage's stage act is influenced by the punk bands he listened to growing up.

Chris Palko's a statistical anomaly, a living, breathing exception to the rule. His life makes 50 Cent seem like a candy striper. Most people with his backstory are ticketed for a lifetime of institutional meals before their body is finally discovered stinking up some squalid tenement or condemned building. Yet, somehow, Palko survived a youth that was more like a cautionary after-school special from hell. Now in his thirties, he's managed to outrun his demons and establish himself as one of the most intriguing, adventurous figures in underground rap.

He's taken a circuitous route, but Palko—who goes by the moniker Cage onstage—has slowly transformed his experiences into something positive. He's gone from a sometime rapper and full-time addict squandering his talent, to a gruesomely imaginative hardcore New York hip-hop legend spewing dark tales to “angry young womanizers in ball caps,” to an artist who still traffics in harrowing tales but—inspired by his friend and collaborator's untimely death—squeezes the silver lining out of his overcast backdrops. And someday, perhaps soon, his story will be made into a film starring his buddy Shia LeBeouf.

“I've done nothing but piss away every opportunity ever given to me. These are all things you can't get back, but you can use them to make you stronger and learn from them,” Palko says from his New York City apartment. “You have to exploit these things people have taken from you—especially the things you have taken from yourself.”

Palko was born in Germany to an American serviceman by the name of

Bill Murray, but his experience was nothing like *Stripes*. Murray was dishonorably discharged for selling and abusing heroin; he'd enlist his son to tie him off while he shot up. Palko was eight when he last saw his father, who at that point was involved in an armed standoff with state troopers after threatening his family with a shotgun. Palko's mom remarried, but his new stepfather beat him, which encouraged him to spend most of his childhood on the streets, running wild, doing and selling drugs, getting into fights and trouble with the law.

“When I was 16 years old, I was selling crack, and I was a buck-fifty in people's faces with box-cutters,” Palko recalls matter-of-factly.

When he was kicked out of school, his parents sent him overseas to live with an uncle who served on a military base in Germany. Palko's uncle beat him as well and sent him back to the US after a year. When further run-ins with the law threatened real jail time, his mother convinced a judge that Palko was mentally unstable, and a two-week evaluation at Stony Lodge Psychiatric Hospital turned into an 18-month stay.

As Palko sings on “Dr. Strong,” one of the songs about the experience from his album *Depart From Me*: “You dropped me off and left me here and started your vacation / I was just in your house going to school looking for validation / Pissed you off, now I'm in the hospital eating medication ... / The drugs they're making me take are making me want to kill myself / And if I try and refuse meds then they force it in me.”

While institutionalized, Palko became a test subject for the then-new and



gle "Agent Orange," whose mix of *Clockwork Orange* references, gangsta violence and gore worthy of Michael Myers made it a minor underground sensation. He released a couple more singles, but his career didn't gain momentum until he joined Mr. Eon and DJ Mighty Mi to form Smut Peddlers. Their 2001 release, *Porn Again*, hit the *Billboard* charts, and the single "That Smut" made it into the rap chart's Top 10. Palko would release his debut solo album, *Movies*



Off hard drugs, Cage still enjoys a good toke.

'My record was the first one on HIGH TIMES,' Palko reminisces fondly. 'It was cool—I went to the Cannabis Cup and got really stoned.'

untested drug Prozac, which aggravated his bipolar disorder and made him suicidal. (He attempted to hang himself with his shoelaces, then tried to overdose on lithium.) He was subsequently placed on suicide watch and restrained more than 20 times for periods as long as 13 hours in a strait-jacket or 10-point bed restraints. Isolated and embattled, he embraced the only freedom he had: retreating into his own head, cultivating his imagination and the twisting, twisted lyrical style that would become his signature.

When he was finally released in '93 at age 18, he turned his attention to hip-hop, made a demo, and secured a manager who introduced him to 3rd Bass's Pete Nice, who featured Palko on a track off his solo debut, *Dust to Dust*, and signed him to his Columbia Records imprint, Hoppoh. But Palko was too fucked up on drugs to take advantage and never released anything. "I was so heavily into pills, I was a walking rattlesnake," he says now. "Anywhere I was walking, you'd hear 'chk-chk-chk.'"

His proper debut wouldn't come for another three years—when, in 1997, he released the sin-

for the *Blind*, the next year on Eastern Conference Records, which was distributed by HIGH TIMES Records. ("My record was the first one on HIGH TIMES," Palko reminisces fondly. "It was cool—I went to the Cannabis Cup and got really stoned.")

With 2005's follow-up, *Hell's Winter*, Palko changed things up. Gone were the misogynistic and gratuitously violent imagery. He was still angry and graphic, but it was more about emotional torture than maniacal, insensate boasting.

"I used to write about sexual exploits, drug fantasies, weapons, and just fucking anyone over and being very proud of it. It was like a character, and it just felt like it was crazy for the sake of being crazy," he says. "You want to poke it with a different stick and hope you bleed differently each time. It's always going to bleed fucked-up; the desire to be overly descriptive and graphic is always going to be there."

He also finally got off hard drugs. (To this day, he remains a big fan of pot.) "I stopped doing drugs because drugs were done with me," Palko says. "It was like: 'Hello, drugs!' 'What, dude? We

don't have anything for you. What do you want? You sucked all the fun out of us.'"

More changes were in store for last year's *Depart From Me*. Palko and his sidekick, Camu Tao, had already transformed their live show: Bored with the typical hip-hop style of stalking the stage and calling out to the crowd, they'd begun to mimic the punk artists that Palko loved growing up, like Henry Rollins and Iggy Pop, seeking to make the show more visceral. For the album, he wanted to bring that same energy by limiting the use of samples and employing more live instrumentation. But then tragedy struck when Camu Tao was diagnosed with cancer.

"When he got sick, it took me out of the game, because nothing else mattered to me," Palko reflects. "I couldn't make these songs and use my collaborator. I couldn't bring in these songs and go, 'I know you're dying—listen to my songs about wanting to die.' I didn't know what to do, so I started making songs that were a little happier.

"After he passed away, my entire world fell apart. I'd never been so wounded in my life. I'd been through so much and felt like, as a little kid, I could take anything—and then the grown man is just broken."

Compounding matters, he split up with his longtime girlfriend and ended up sleeping on an air mattress at the house of his friend, former Hatebreed guitarist Sean Martin. Martin lent him a hand creatively as well, helping Palko create an album meant "to define me and take me to the next level." *Depart From Me* is loaded with hooks, live instruments and a slightly more upbeat attitude, producing music that's more rock than hip-hop, yet not quite either.

His friendship with actor Shia LeBeouf bloomed during this time and helped Palko through his pain. LeBeouf directed the video for *Depart From Me*'s "I Never Knew You," which was paid for out of their own pockets after Palko's label, Def Jux, decided to stop releasing music. For the last year, he and LeBeouf have been auditioning screenwriters for a movie based on Palko's life and may have finally settled on a script. Shooting will depend on getting backers and on LeBeouf's schedule, but Lionsgate Studios is already interested.

Lately, Palko's taken some meetings with major and indie labels, but he's in no hurry to sign. And though he's without a label, Palko continues to record. He's made material with Martin and with UK producer Synhony. He's also talked with Kanye West protégé Kid Cudi about doing some tracks. He has no idea what will become of the music, but he can't stop writing. And it's not just music: He's begun a book on his experience at Stony Lodge and another on his exploits as an angel-dust addict. He's had a crazy life, and sometimes the only way to keep his sanity is to keep working.

"I'm just all over the place. I take it all with a grain of shit and try to keep going despite the fraudulence I'm surrounded by," he says. "It's a lot easier to come across as original when 99 percent of my peers are fighting to see who can do the best writing the same three songs." *

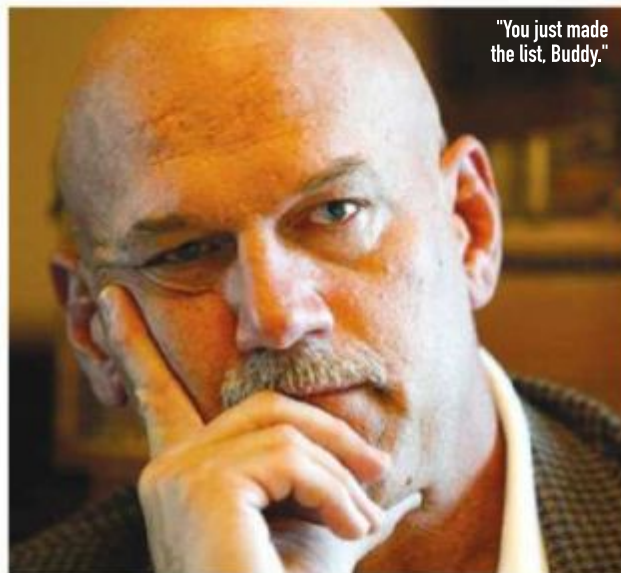
MEET JESSE VENTURA

By Steven Hager

Jesse Ventura has led one of the more colorful lives in American political history. A former Navy Seal who became a professional wrestler and then an actor, Ventura stunned America when he was elected governor of Minnesota in 1998 as an independent candidate. During his time as governor, Ventura was pro-hemp and pro-medical marijuana. Last year, he created *Conspiracy Theory with Jesse Ventura*, the first successful cable-TV show on political conspiracies. He also co-authored the book *American Conspiracies* with longtime HIGH TIMES writer Dick Russell, whose *The Man Who Knew Too Much* remains the best single volume ever written on the JFK assassination.

How did you win that election?

The Democrats made a big mistake and said they would not debate unless I was included. I go on a simple premise with Democrats and Republicans: If I can debate them, I can beat them ... because they have so much baggage, and I have no baggage. And the way to have no baggage is to admit to everything beforehand. Sure, I've smoked pot—I grew up in the '60s. If you didn't smoke pot in the '60s, you either didn't grow up then or you're a damned liar.



What would you like to say to New Yorkers about 9/11?

We need a new investigation with subpoena power that won't be fraudulently led by the government. How can you truly do an investigation of yourself? Christie Todd Whitman was head of the EPA. The initial report from the EPA was that you still had great danger down there with all the toxins in the air. Yet it went to the White House, and the White House had her change

I don't know. I call them lemmings ... march them right off the cliff. I don't vote for Democrats or Republicans—that's the first thing we need to do, is to stop voting for those two political parties. Because we were warned by John Adams and George Washington and Thomas Jefferson that the downfall of the United States would occur from within, and

the report: "Everybody go back to work!" How many people who worked there have now died from inhaling what was there?

Why aren't Americans angry about the stolen elections?

'Sure, I've smoked pot—I grew up in the '60s. If you didn't smoke pot in the '60s, you either didn't grow up then or you're a damned liar.'

they said it would occur when political parties took over the government. Well, that's happened.

What do you think of the Tea Party movement?

I think the Tea Party is a bit of a fraud, because they're supposed to be defending the Constitution—where were they during the Bush administration when they got rid of habeas corpus? I found it kind of ironic that it all happened only when Barack Obama got in. All of a sudden, there's this Tea Party that turns up: "They're turning us all into socialists!"



Somebody's operation, no doubt.

They are not grassroots ... this is way, way beyond any grassroots movement. ✨

FOOL'S GOLD SHINES TRUE

This Los Angeles musical collective rocks with African music, Israeli melodies, and cannabis from around the world. By Danny Danko



The first thing the members of Fool's Gold want you to know is that their influences are far more than just Congolese, Ethiopian and Malian. "I don't consider us strictly 'world music,'" says founding member and vocalist/bassist Luke Top. "We're just being honest with ourselves: We're into hip-hop, Motown, pop, new wave—all kinds of music that colors our aural landscape and

provides some form of escape.

"We're hoping to achieve that elusive, hypnotic trance where you lose yourself onstage," Top continues, though he admits that "it doesn't always happen. The sense of time changes and you enter *musical* time, where the spectrum of moods is shared."

Live, Fool's Gold saturates their audience with mesmerizing sounds played on a variety of handmade instruments. Their percussion includes goat-toe rattles, shell gourds and many other unique drums, and the vocalists chant their verses and choruses as though possessed by a contagious musical spirit. Entranced crowds up front typically tend to enhance their aural and dancing experience with a spliff or two.

Keyboard player Amir Kenan can relate: "We love to smell it wafting up from the crowd! I grew up going to reggae concerts with my dad, so the memories wash over me. It's how I know the audience is into our stuff—like a salute. Very different from an alcohol-crowd vibe."

Percussionist Salvador Placencia agrees. "I

use marijuana as a type of key to unlock certain spaces," he says.

On the perks of traveling and performing, drummer Orpheo McCord tells me: "Vancouver is very herb-friendly, but Northern Cali is always the best. In Vancouver, our sound guy hooked us up within minutes of arrival. We love when fans and friends share the love and the buds!" ✨

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Willie and Wynton

Walter Blanding, Wynton Marsalis, Willie Nelson, Norah Jones, (Carlos Henriquez on bass), Mickey Raphael perform live at Jazz at Lincoln Center.

Over the past few years, Willie Nelson has been expanding his already diverse musical palette to include jazz—and he took legendary trumpeter Wynton Marsalis along for the ride.

By Mary Ought Six

Not enough people know that the world's most venerated stoner, country-music star Willie Nelson, has made some epic excursions into the upper echelons of jazz in recent years. In an inspired and instantly memorable collaboration, Willie teamed up with jazz-trumpet heavyweight champion Wynton Marsalis. Not since the legendary Louis Armstrong and Jimmie Rodgers, "the Father of Country Music," hit the recording studios together back in 1930 has there been such an historic match-up between jazz horn and country warble.

Willie took time from his current tour with *Asleep at the Wheel* to tell *HIGH TIMES* more about these amazing sessions, which have been captured on CD and two DVDs.

"I heard that music forever, so it wasn't a big stretch for me to say, 'Hey, Wynton, let's jam,'" he explained. After all, Nelson's musical heritage is a rich tapestry: "I grew up in the cotton fields in Texas, where I heard the Mexicans singing all kinds of great Mexican songs and I heard the blacks singing all kinds of great black songs—blues, gospel. And there were also a lot of Czechoslovakians down in that area, many of them farmers, so I learned a lot of polkas, waltzes—all that great dance music that the Bohemians play."

And though he's always been "Country Willie," Nelson's life has been bathed in jazz from its roots to its flowers. "I like to think that we're all kind of

half-assed jazz musicians," he said with a chuckle. "My sister Bobby listened to all the great musicians, and I've been a Django Reinhardt fan for many years—so it's kind of hard not to have that jazz flair in nearly everything we do." As for the seemingly unusual pairing of the down-home, unpretentious Nelson with the urbane, sartorially elegant Marsalis, Willie laughed: "The press liked it a lot, because they could say, 'Well, here's this old country-boy farmer out there playing with this jazz musician from New York.' So it looks good in print, but it was a lot of fun and really easy to do."

And both the fun and the ease are abundantly clear on these highly entertaining DVDs. The first, *Willie Nelson & Wynton Marsalis: Live from New York City*, is a lovingly produced near-documentary of the two days of rehearsals and performances at the posh venue Jazz at Lincoln Center by this group of astounding musicians. Nelson and Marsalis have a marvelous time interacting, playing and singing together, and their shared love is more heartwarming than a batch of fresh-baked Diesel brownies. At one point during the filming, Marsalis shakes his head and puts it plain about Nelson: "He's real, man, and that's rare. You've gotta get as close to that as you can nowadays. It's important for your own mental being."

Nicely put—and if your own mental being needs to enjoy the pure musical extraction from this first major summit, *Willie Nelson and Wynton Marsalis: Two Men with the Blues* is available on CD from Blue Note Records. Though the pricey NYC jazz club isn't exactly known as a haven for stoners, *HIGH TIMES* asked Nelson if marijuana played any sort of role in these collaborations. "Well," he answered with a playful drawl, "I did send them all a vaporizer after we were done."

Did he get a response?

"Nobody sent one back."

Hey, clearly they still wanted to hang out! The second DVD, released in October of last year, is pure musical bliss. Telling a linear tale from stage entrance to stage exit, *Willie Nelson & Wynton Marsalis Play the Music of Ray Charles* delivers just that: From foot-tapping classics like "Hit the Road Jack" and "Hallelujah I Love Her So" to a sweet rendition of "Unchain My Heart," Willie and Wynton (with a special guest appearance by Norah Jones) bring all the life and light of Ray Charles's superb music to the floor. And while the first DVD has the benefit of fascinating behind-the-scenes footage, the second has the added luxury of the charisma between Nelson and Jones. As Nelson observes: "Norah and I are old friends—she even has a band called the Little Willies."

Finally, the performances here are mind-blowingly great, with saxophone, piano, harmonica, bass and drums adding layers of musical nirvana to enhance any state of mind. As Nelson pointed out during our interview: "The music itself is a high. The audience gets a high from the music, the entertainer gets a high from the music and the audience So, with or without drugs, music gets you *very* high."

You can catch more of Nelson and hear his own favorite picks at *Willie's Place* on both XM and Sirius satellite radio (Nelson dubs satellite radio a "godsend" for travelers), but the musical collaboration captured on these discs will make them timeless classics: a teaming of legends who share the utmost respect and admiration for each other—and have one hell of a good time getting down. These three discs are something super-special for your shelves, to light up choice nights and pass around to your most musically diverse buds. ✨

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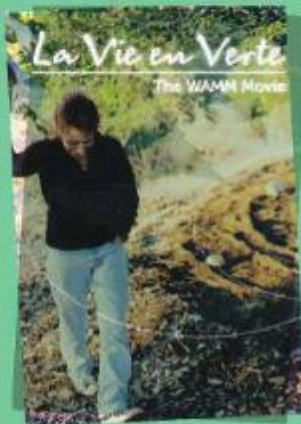
Directed by Charlie Hall and Bevin Bell-Hall



At the world premiere of *La Vie en Verte* at the Santa Cruz Film Festival, locals packed the theater to support the well-respected medical-marijuana collective known as WAMM (Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana), including dozens of the group's members. Filmed over four years by husband-and-wife team Charlie Hall and Bevin Bell-Hall, the documentary crafts a sensitive portrait of the medical-marijuana patients and activists who embody the collective spirit of WAMM. Rewarding their efforts, festival attendees voted *La Vie en Verte* winner of the Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature.

The film follows WAMM co-founders Mike and Valerie Corral, who share their hopes and fears through illness, several arrests and a DEA raid. The subsequent court case and seizure of all the collective's medicine finds WAMM members at their darkest hour. Through extensive interviews with several patients, viewers can empathize with the need of sick and dying people to use this healing plant. Indeed, the title *La Vie en Verte* ("The Life in Green") refers to "seeing life through green lenses" and understanding the experience of another human being.

While suffering from the ovarian cancer that would ultimately cause her death, a collective member named Lucy talks with the film-



makers about how medical marijuana and WAMM aided her when she needed it most. Breast-cancer survivor Dianne allows the camera to follow her through a life-affirming transformation, while HIV/AIDS patient Jeremy continues to survive a struggle that has lasted 20 years.

When the DEA arrived at WAMM's garden early on the morning of September 5, 2002, they brought chainsaws to remove more than 100 plants, and guns to subdue the peaceful activists, including Mike, Valerie and Suzanne, a paralyzed patient. Security-camera footage captures the senseless destruction of a life-saving garden. Both Mike and Valerie recount their brutal treatment by the DEA and how, immediately after their arrest, WAMM mem-

bers sprang into action, blocking the steep road up to their garden and preventing the agents from leaving the property. Local media watched as frail patients, some in wheelchairs, refused to let the DEA pass until Valerie and Mike's release was negotiated.

The ongoing federal-court case initiated by this raid was finally settled in early 2010, which means this film has a happy ending! WAMM continues to operate today in Santa Cruz, and they're accepting new members. Please visit wamm.org for more information and look for *La Vie en Verte* at a film festival near you, or find screening dates at thewammovie.com.—Elise McDonough

EI-P

Weareallgoingtoburnin-hellmegamixxx3

(Gold Dust)



Rapper, producer and Def Jux label founder EI-P has a little story he wants to tell you. Make that a pretty damn scary one, too. As a solo artist and frontman for the hip-hop group Company Flow and the producer for Cannibal Ox, Cage, Mr. Lif, Aesop Rock, NIN, Beck and the Mars Volta (among many others), the man's famous for getting a sound that makes you want to smash things. But his new all-instrumental album, *Weareallgoingtoburnin-hellmegamixxx3*, is far, far grander than a mere mixtape of wicked sounds: It's crafted like a really engrossing movie, and each track tells a part of the tale.

The follow-up to his past two mixes of the same name previously released at live shows, this set is another supa-threatening sonic cityscape engorged with ominous bass lines, bruising drum thumps, and approximately one million unhinged and unidentifiable sounds, ladled over tracks with such suitably agitated titles as "Drunk With a Loaded Pistol," "Jump Fence, Run, Live" and "Whores: The Movie." The idea was to make something that played like that old-school idea of an LP record album—something to become immersed in and follow through from beginning to end. An authentically '70s-drenched aura beams down Kodachrome gritty via thrumming snakes of vintage analog synths, cheesy old drum machines, and the buzzes and dings of an especially grim videogame parlor; when EI-P chops it all up and creates transitions between and throughout the songs, you're not sure exactly what you're hearing, but it's definitely something *serious*.—John Payne

EARLY MAN

Death Potion

(The End Records)



When NYC/LA metallians Early Man began blowing up city basements in 2005 with their early Metallica-biting thrash, I became obsessed with them. At the time, metal was deep underground, and for those craving diamond-hard lixxx, their arrival on a soft, sludgy scene could be compared to that of the elves at Helm's Deep. Now, six years later, Early Man have a lot of competition. I think these guys might have fed on adversity, because the melodic and memorable hooks that sustained their earlier efforts are in evidence here on only three tracks: "Fight," "Through Chemtrails" and "The Undertaker's Calling You."

Unfortunately, that's because they *are* earlier efforts. All three appeared on the band's eponymous debut EP and follow-up full-length, *Closing In* (both 2005). "The Undertaker ...," originally a six-minute-plus destroyer, is here split, Van Halen "Eruption" style, into two tracks, with the blistering Maiden-esque solo opener now standing alone as "Through Chemtrails." If I were going to rate this album solely on the strength of these songs, it would get a kilo of sticky bud. But the newer tracks lack inspiration and tuneful riffage, and for some reason, weak, jerky choruses abound. The first time I heard "Someone Else's Nightmare" live, I thought the chorus was a joke.

I'd say buy this for the three gems mentioned and a few glittering shards throughout. I am the last person to wish for metal's demise, but when it inevitably occurs, at least maybe these guys will rise again.—Polly Watson

Touch and Go: The Complete Hardcore Punk Zine, '79-'83

By Tesco Vee and Dave Stimson

(Bazillion Points)



The '80s didn't completely suck—not at first. The underground-music scene was pretty happening back when you actually had to get up off your ass and find it. Coming across this stuff wasn't easy: 'Zines like *Touch and Go*, *Flipside*, *Maximum Rock'n'Roll* and dozens of others spread the "loud fast rules" gospel of hardcore punk in a world where most people thought of Devo when they heard the P-word. And considering the kind of obsessive-compulsive mind that it took to actually paste up and Xerox one of these rags, you pretty much knew, whenever you came by one, that you were reading the words of a true believer.

Now add to that mix two guys from Lansing, MI, who could hate and cuss better than Mel Gibson chugging Pabst at a bar mitzvah, and you get *Touch and Go*. Tesco Vee (frontman for the late, almost great Meatmen) and partner Dave Stimson manage to reference human bodily functions every fourth or fifth sentence throughout this massive collection, and while that might not sound like too good a thing, you have to believe me when I say it is: "SEXISM SUCKS (but it sure makes my spud go turgid)" is a pretty typical headline. Reading this 30 years later, you realize these guys had some good taste—at least in music. And unlike other publications, this one would be proud to take up real estate on your bathroom floor.—Chris Simunek



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LEGAL POT: A WISHED BAG FOR MANY

Prop 19 could spell the end of big money times in the Emerald Triangle.

By Paul Krassner

In California's Humboldt County, where the economy is totally dependent on the superb marijuana, growers are displaying "Keep Pot Illegal" bumper stickers. Blogs predict that tobacco companies will crush small farmers if the legalize-and-tax-pot initiative passes. "If residents don't act," local radio host Anna Hamilton warns, "we're going to be ruined."

So I asked two anti-prohibition writers for their reactions to this dilemma.

Retired Judge Jim Gray, author of *Why Our Drug Laws Have Failed and What We Can Do About It: A Judicial Indictment of the War on Drugs*, responded as follows: "With regard to the Humboldt County folks, they raise an obvious point: Why should they vote in favor of government strictly regulating and controlling marijuana when that would deprive many people up there of their source of revenue? It makes perfect economic sense for them to oppose the initiative. Maybe I would, too."

"In fact, when the proposition to treat marijuana like alcohol for adults comes up for a vote this November, we should expect the Mexican drug cartels to be spending literally tens of millions of dollars to safeguard their hundreds of millions in annual profits from the illegal sale of marijuana for the same reasons. Wouldn't you do the same?"

Bill Bradd, the author of *From the Emerald Triangle: Notes of a Renegade Farmer in the Far Hills* (\$16 from Ten Mile River Press, PO Box 1840, Fort Bragg, CA 95437), had this to say: "From the perspective of a local in the Emerald Triangle, to legalize pot or not is a quandary. It seems that some of the big, glossy magazines of the industry, like *Nug*, are advocating strongly for legalization. But up here, people smell the wind for danger: Word's out that there's a forest fire in the hills."

"It seems to be the intrinsic nature of industries to change—and now, with legalization almost upon us, the cannabis industry has reached the same threshold. But this is not the first time that change has come to our industry. Not too long ago, we passed Prop. 215, and the legalization door was ajar. Us back-hills people were not happy about that, any more



How would legalization affect NoCal's big growers?

'Once the snout of the government gets under the tent-flap door, its sniffer twitches for a multitude of reasons.'

Above. Our outdoor price dropped dramatically, indoor price rose. Good on ya. But us hill guys, our product had lost its cachet. Smokers wanted variance, boutique product, and our wonderful organic hill-weed had trouble selling. For us, it was a case of adapt or move to Costa Rica.

"A new language was invented. Community activists were out with petitions advocating legalization. 'Well-meaning,' I said to my neighbor. It's a little late now for hysteria—I see 'pot' on people's grocery lists, right after 'bread' and 'milk.' I think smokers will vote their pocket-books. Plus the home gardener is being schooled by outfits every weekend.

"Eventually, the do-it-yourself gardener will get it right, take himself and his neighbors right out of the customer pool. I don't see big Sacramento interests or tobacco companies crushing us, contrary to rumor—it'll be the home gardener with some plants to sell on his patio. I think the big-money times are over; adapting into the byproduct market is how some will hang on. As for 'boutique,' I'll be curious to see how that fares. And for the taxation issue: Once the snout of government gets under the tent-flap door, its sniffer twitches for a multitude of reasons.

"Change has always ground small towns to dust—be they timber towns on the Upper Peninsula or fishing villages, they come and go. Permanence was one of the limbs we lost when we disengaged from our tails. The river takes a different bend suddenly, and you're left high and dry. Progress is like the wind: It sweeps all before it. The sky is paler. I heard there was a forest fire." ✨

Paul Krassner, who was last seen peeing on that forest fire, publishes the infamous Disneyland Memorial Orgy poster, available at paulkrassner.com.

than the moonshiners of old were happy when Prohibition ended.

"Soon, the old-time wildcat growers out in the hills—those guys trying to get lucky powered by supreme effort—were ousted with the arrival of full-bore indoor growing. They overwhelmed us. Who knew? I was watching for cops and helicopters, the Terror From

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HIGH TIMES UNSIGNED BAND OF THE MONTH THE ROAST BEEF CURTAINS

Inspired by tight reggae rhythm sections and thrashing punk bands, three Hofstra University graduates birthed the Roast Beef Curtains. Taking a DIY approach, Andrew, John and Mike evolved the RBC into the best live reggae, dub and punk experience on Long Island.

Since 2005, the trio has played well over 200 shows. Onstage, each band member works double and sometimes triple duty, playing their instruments while also controlling the live dub effects, thereby transforming every concert into an ear-gasmic experience.

In the summer of 2009, the trio turned quartet when they added melodica and keyboard specialist Jimmy as the final piece to their puzzle. Since then, the Curtains have expanded their act into a full-scale jam and psychedelic party!

Each band member brings influences from a wide variety of artists, including Ween, King Tubby, Bad Brains and the Grateful Dead. The result is a mixture of authentic dub, improvisation and psychedelic reggae sprinkled with some gritty punk rock.

In addition to heavy touring within the tri-state area, the band has taken the national stage on many occasions, most notably performing at the Bonnaroo Music Festival in 2010 and playing for over 1.2 million TV viewers on the WPIX *Morning Show*. Be sure to pick up the *Pleasure EP*, the long-awaited debut release from the RBC, and stay tuned for the full-length album scheduled to drop in 2011. For more on the Roast Beef Curtains, including audio samples and tour info, check out hightimes.com/theroastbeefcurtains.

MISS NOVEMBER

NAME: Emily AGE: 21
PROFILE: Emilygrace21
OCCUPATION: Promotions
CITY: Raleigh, NC



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BY BOBBY BLACK

TRAGEDY IN B MINOR

Goth-rock icon Peter Steele takes the D train to oblivion.

trag-e-dy

1 a: a medieval narrative poem or tale typically describing the downfall of a great man

b: a serious drama typically describing a conflict between the protagonist and a superior force (as destiny) and having a sorrowful or disastrous conclusion that elicits pity or terror

Normally around this time of year, I'd be gearing up for the usual round of Halloween shows by Brooklyn goth-metal group Type O Negative. Sadly, that tradition came to an abrupt end with the passing this spring of the band's bassist, vocalist and driving force, Peter Steele. The six-foot-seven *übermensch* with the deep voice and dark sense of humor formed the band in 1989 after splitting up his former group, legendary hardcore band Carnivore. Despite their notorious association with the color green, Type O were never really into weed; nonetheless, I'm paying tribute to Steele this month because ... well, because I knew him.

I grew up with Type O Negative. As a young metalhead in Brooklyn, Type O were *my band*. They hung out with people I knew, sang about places I'd been. I was at their very first performance (as Repulsion) at L'Amour in 1990, and thereafter prided myself on never missing a single show. I collected every press clip and article, got them to sign a *Slow Deep and Hard* poster, and even fought for 20 minutes in the moshpit at a Carnivore reunion show to hold onto Steele's homemade spiked "armor" that he'd thrown out into the crowd—a prize I cherish to this day.

Eventually, guitarist Kenny Hickey and I became good friends, and thanks to an odd twist of fate, I ended up renting out his mom's basement for about three years. During this time, I was fortunate enough to be invited into the band's inner circle. Keyboardist Josh Silver (the only pothead in the band at the time) was the first musical artist I ever interviewed for HIGH TIMES. I visited his home studio during the mixing of *Bloody Kisses* and was among the first people to hear the demos. I spent three days on the road with the band during Ozzfest 1996 and

roadied for Kenny once up in Connecticut. I hung out with them in Ace London Studios during their rehearsals for *World Coming Down*. I even spent Christmas with Kenny's family and attended Josh's wedding.

But despite all this, Peter was the one guy in the band I never really developed a friendship with. Was it because he had to lean so far



RIP Peter Steele.

down to talk to me? Or because I didn't have tits? Or because, deep down, he never really took off that armor? I guess I'll never know. What I *do* know is that he was a musical genius. In both of his bands, Steele pushed the boundaries of "decency" and humor. In the early days, his lyrics were often offensive for the sake of being offensive—filled with tongue-in-cheek violence and anger and taken to the absurd. His sardonic satire eventually evolved into an

almost romantic nihilism. With songs like "Everything Dies," "Dead Again" and "Life Is Killing Me," Steele seemed obsessed with death—particularly his own. Over the years, he'd predicted, faked and even attempted his own demise. But it wasn't until this spring that the Grim Reaper finally caught up with him.

It's been suggested to me that the passing of a person so obsessed with death can hardly be viewed as "tragic"—but really, it's the very epitome of tragedy in the classical sense of the word. Like so many tormented artists before him, he was melancholic, misanthropic and misunderstood, and in constant combat with the forces of alienation, alcoholism and addiction.

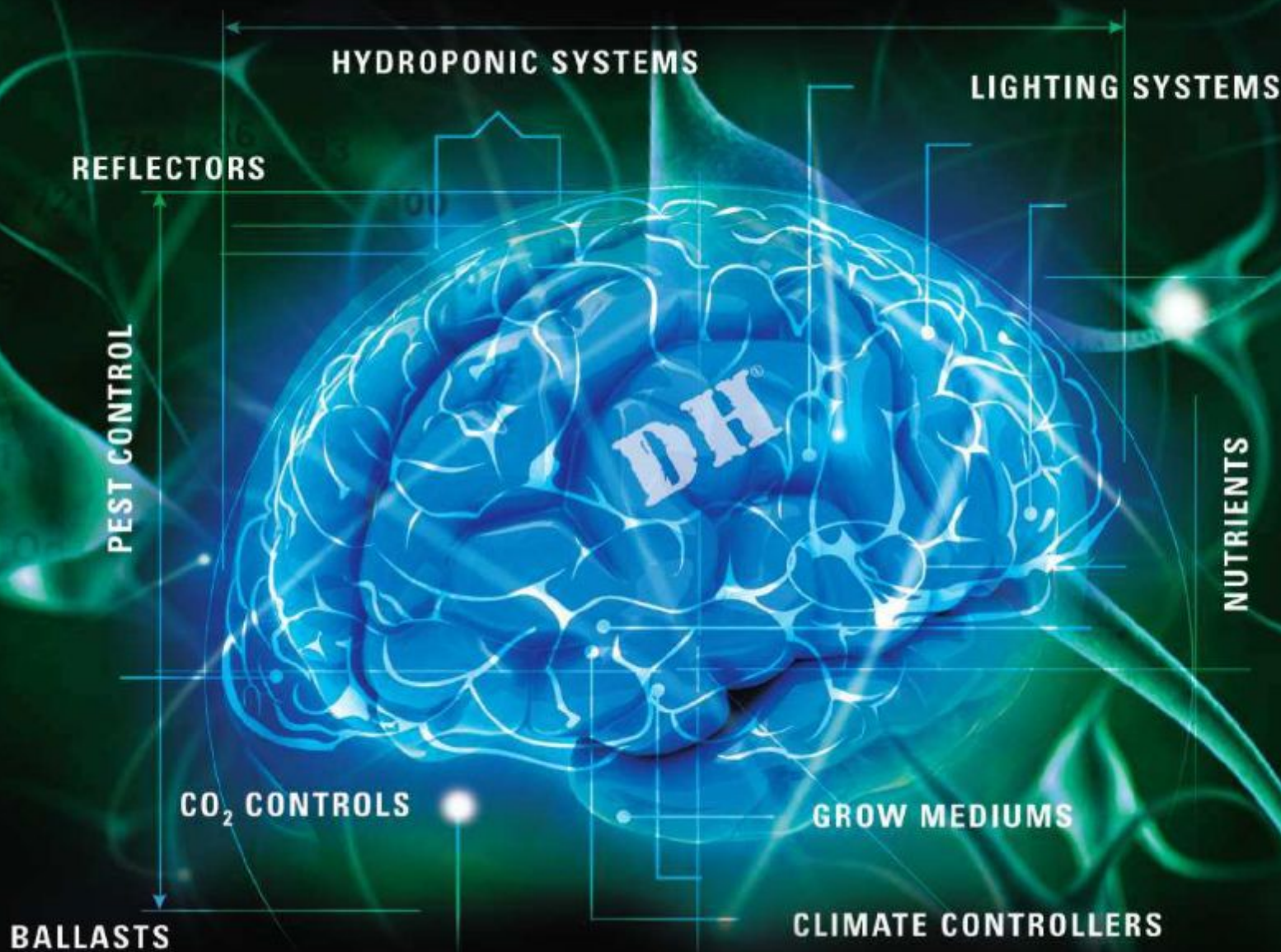
After several stints in rehab, Steele was supposedly doing better. The last time I saw him perform, he seemed to have grown a bit fat and sloppy, like some Elvis Frankenstein. But personally, I'll always remember him as that proletarian provocateur onstage at the Limelight, the not-so-jolly green giant who took a handsaw to his bass strings at the Cabaret club, the almost Shakespearean antihero who wore his "inner conflict" on his sleeve.

Peter Steele was one of the most unique people I've ever known, and for me and so many of his fans, his passing feels "like a death in the family." 🍀

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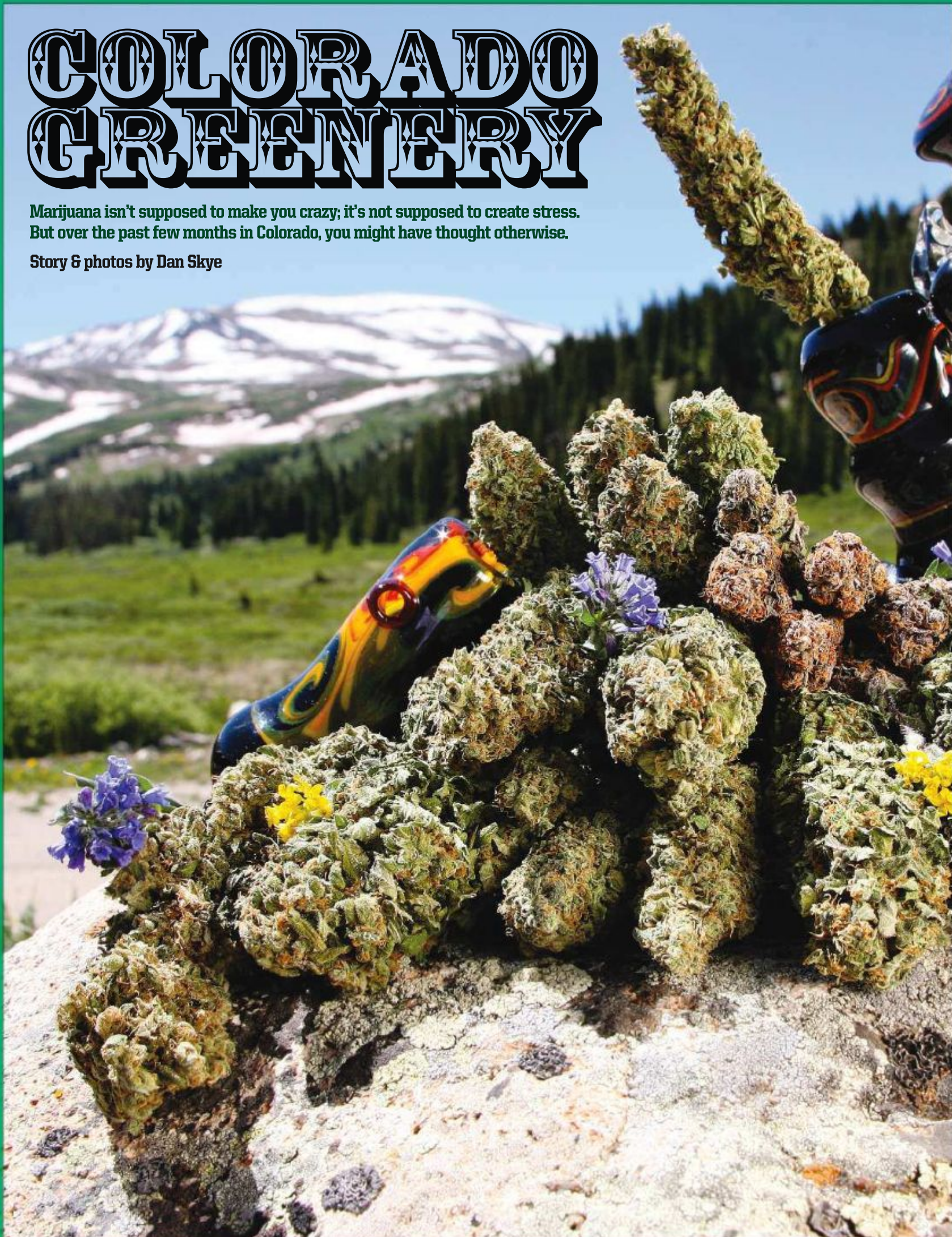
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COLORADO GREENERY

Marijuana isn't supposed to make you crazy; it's not supposed to create stress. But over the past few months in Colorado, you might have thought otherwise.

Story & photos by Dan Skye





A high altitude pot portrait (11,000 feet) near Alma, CO. Strains (L to R): Cherry Lime, Maui OG, Blueberry, Hawaiian Sativa, Grape Ape on top

New legislation, government deadlines, regulatory guidelines, contracts, partnerships, corporations: This isn't the United Auto Workers or the Teamsters we're talking about—this is Colorado's cannabis industry! Suddenly last summer in the Rocky Mountain State, the weed world was yanked into a real world of regulation and government oversight. But for many Colorado cannabis businesses, the new legislation signed into law by Governor Bill Ritter in June was a death knell. Of the approximately 1,100 dispensaries operating at that time, *half* are expected to close.

Some members of the cannabis community grudgingly admit that perhaps it was time to rein in the industry. In 2000, voters passed an actual amendment to the state constitution (Amendment 20) that allowed the use of medical marijuana by registered patients. Additionally, the law offered residents who'd been busted and had failed to join the state registry the option of mounting an "affirmative defense of medical necessity."

Pot lovers rejoiced, but it took nearly a decade for the medical-marijuana industry to establish it-

'Governor Ritter announced that the new cannabis laws would "strike a delicate balance between protecting public safety and respecting the will of the voters.'

self in the state. The Bush administration's constant pressure on California dispensaries made prospective Colorado cannabis entrepreneurs wary of exercising their own rights under state law. That all changed when US Attorney General Eric Holder announced early in 2009 that medical-marijuana businesses operating in compliance with state law wouldn't be hassled by the Feds.

At that point, the floodgates opened. Since Holder's statement, thousands of residents have lined up to get registered, and hundreds of dispensaries have opened their doors to serve them. (The volume of new patients is so high that the Colorado Department of Health currently states on its website that it will no longer review applications, issue receipts, or accept and answer questions at the walk-up window.) But while everyone cherishes a utopian ideal for cannabis—one that entails full access to healthy medicine at a reasonable price—the unbridled pursuit of the quick buck did, in fact, taint the public's perception of the new industry. Areas like the "Green Mile," situated along South Broadway in Denver—where over 20 dispensaries opened in a matter of months—made many people anxious, despite the fact that the majority of these places are secure, well-run establishments.

It may be heresy to say it, but maybe—just maybe—the industry was moving too fast. Years of Drug War rhetoric continue to prejudice otherwise intelligent people, and perhaps the avalanche of dispensaries simply outdistanced

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

At Full Spectrum Laboratories, cannabis is tested for quality assurance.



Cannabis gets a close inspection at Full Spectrum.

Wouldn't you like to choose your pot based on THC content, cannabinoid levels and purity rather than relying on the strain name, general appearance and experiences of others as your guide? Colorado patients can now expect to be provided with this information, because reputable dispensaries are routinely using Full Spectrum Laboratories to analyze their merchandise.

Full Spectrum is an independent botanical-testing lab that provides quantification, certification and product-safety testing for the medical-cannabis industry. Based in Denver, the lab's headquarters are located in what was once a community-outreach center. After a complete renovation, the building is now a sparkling testing facility with an isolated ventilation system to ensure the precision of its work, which includes analyzing samples for the presence of mold and fungus, heavy metals, and pesticides. A growing number of dispensaries use Full Spectrum to test all of their strains, edibles and plant extracts. For large dispensaries like Denver's Patients Choice, this could comprise up to 80 samples per month.

Robert Winnicki is the director of Full Spectrum. He cites Steep Hill Laboratories, based in Oakland, CA, as the pioneer of the cannabis-testing industry. While Steep Hills initially relied on gas chromatography (GC) to measure THC levels, these days both labs use high-performance-liquid chromatography (HPLC) to get more accurate results. "The real problem with GC testing is that the number you get is anywhere between 20 and 40 percent low," Robert explains. "So if you get a figure of 10 percent, the number is actually 12 or



Denver medical growers must now sell 70% of their crop to one dispensary.



Frank Quattrone of Denver's PURE dispensary.

'If you have 3,000 people in the state growing 50 plants in their basements, how do you maintain any quality control?'

and licensed on both the state and local levels.

Frank Quattrone, who runs the Pure Medical Dispensary in Denver, says: "I feel bad about those people who invested thousands of dollars in their grow op or dispensary—but what the state didn't want was for the cannabis to be grown in the basement of a residential home and have growers going from dispensary to dispensary, door to door." As a result of the new laws, the directors of Pure forged an alliance with their top grower, who runs a massive operation in the Denver suburbs and whose crops are always top-notch.

"If you have 3,000 people in the state growing 50 plants in their basements, how do you maintain any quality control?" Quattrone asks. "I'm not just talking about potency; I'm talking about mold, fungus and heavy-metal content—standards that any consumer product should abide by. We are exiting the Wild West days and entering into a new era of business."

As well as a new era of bureaucratic bullshit. Many observers believe that in the state's rush to set up a system of regulation, the needs of the patient have gotten lost in the shuffle. The revenue being raked in by cannabis businesses seemed to be of more concern than the integrity of the law, which guarantees access for Coloradoans in need. The new law imposes a statewide moratorium on new dispensaries and allows cities and counties to ban them altogether—which will make it that much harder for many patients to acquire their medicine.

The law establishes new guidelines for patients as well: Now, rather than going for a simple medical consultation, they'll be required to get a full physical examination and form a continuing relationship with their recommending physician. This will increase the financial hardship on low-income patients—and considering the fact that over-the-counter medica-

people's comfort zones. More significantly, many cannabis professionals were dismayed by the quality of the bud that was being marketed—overpriced, overhyped med-pot that lacked any notation, let alone assurance, of quality or safety.

Politicians were eager to put controls in place—and in June, they did just that. Governor Ritter announced that the new cannabis laws would "strike a delicate balance between protecting public safety and respecting the will of the voters." But the new laws have impacted the dispensary scene considerably. Suddenly, dispensaries were bound by so-called "70/30 legislation," which requires them to grow a minimum of 70 percent of their products. Likewise, growers are now required by law to sell 70 percent of their crops through one dispensary.

Medical growers and dispensaries rushed to link up and form partnerships, corporations, and whatever other legal arrangements they could make to stay in business—especially since, as of September 1, all dispensaries, growers and makers of cannabis-infused products have to be registered

Sweet Seeds



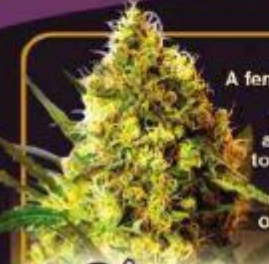
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Autoflowering



A feminised automatic strain of high stature. We have selected this particular one, which can reach a height of 1-1,5 metres, in order to answer our customers demand for a taller automatic strain. Growing it outdoors with plenty of sunlight, it can reach 2 metres in height. Good production of compact and resinous buds. A fruity taste with a skunk touch.

Big Devil

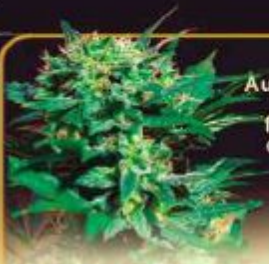
Autoflowering: 100% Indoor Blooming: 6 weeks.
Indoor/Outdoor Harvest: 9 weeks from the germination. Height: 1-2 m.
3s. \$32,98
5s. \$64,50 / 10s. \$109



Our most recent and fastest autoflowering strain. Excellent production with big buds covered by abundant and aromatic resins. These plants can reach heights of 40-90 cm. Strong effect and sweet taste with exotic tones inherited from its Diesel ancestry.

Fast Bud

Autoflowering: 100% Indoor blooming: 5 weeks.
Indoor/Outdoor Harvest: 7 and half weeks from germination. Height: 40 - 90 cm.
3s. \$21,50
5s. \$43,02 / 10s. \$86,04



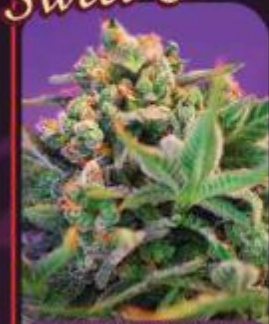
Automatic feminised variety. The beginning of its flowering does not depend on season or photoperiod; therefore it can be grown all year round. Extremely fast flowering, it's height does not exceed 80 cm. Sweet aroma, hints of cheese and yeast.

Speed Devil

Autoflowering: 100% Indoor Blooming: 5 weeks.
Indoor/Outdoor Harvest: 8 weeks from the germination. Height: 40 - 80 cm.
3s. \$37,28
5s. \$68,80 / 10s. \$117,6

Sweet Cheese

New



It's a fusion between two high-grade strains, Cheese x Black Jack. The genetics highlight the virtues of its ancestors, giving a new twist to the aromas and flavour of the Black Jack. It produces long central buds surrounded by plenty of peripheral buds that are also long and of good quality. Its high productivity added to a new and revolutionary flavour - a slight taste of mature cheese and spice - makes Sweet Cheese a recommended option for those who seek new flavours and aromas. Regarding the effects, it is important to remember that we're dealing with a mix of two of the big hitters in cannabis genetics. Its effect is strong and long lasting, inducing euphoria and a feeling of relaxation.

Indica/Sativa: 30%-70%.
Indoor Blooming: 9 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: Mid-late October.

3 seeds \$41,59 / 5 seeds \$70,28 / 10 seeds \$142,01

Snow Fruit

New



Sweet Seeds present the abominable plant of the snow! It has predominantly indica genetics that, in our opinion, have rarely been seen before. This strain has an exaggerated development of the lateral branches. Because of this just one plant can occupy an extensive area of cultivation and produce a huge harvest on its own. It produces succulent and compact buds thanks to its long calyxes. While it blooms it exhibits a charming range of colours in its foliage, with shades of green, magenta, red, and purple. It also develops a big mantle of trichomes in the flowering bunch and throughout its foliage during this phase. It's a strong strain, with a very short internodal distance and strong stalks that help it to resist the windy conditions of outdoor growing. While fresh, its aroma is reminiscent of a mix of mint and fruits of the forest, with a slight flavour of toasted almonds and humus. Its effects are very strong and relaxing due to its high percentage of THC and CBD. This is a strain of high medicinal quality.

Indica/Sativa: 90%-10%.
Indoor Blooming: 8 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: End of September.

3 seeds \$35,85 / 5 seeds \$60,24 / 10 seeds \$114,75

Double White

New



This is the result of crossing two elite clones selected around the year 2000, White Widow and Great White Shark, which are the two most appreciated and famous of the White family. Genetics characteristics include easy growth, strong effect, extraordinary taste and high production of trichome covered buds. In short, this is a plant with which it is easy to get good results. It's a vigorous and strong plant, with short internodes and a very resistant structure. This allows easy control of its growth during which the blooming of the buds join together to form a long tail. Its aroma is very pleasant and powerful, with slight tastes of sweet and sour, fresh and floral. The effect is also strong and typical of the indica-sativa hybrids.

Indica/Sativa: 60%-40%.
Indoor Blooming: 9 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: Mid-late October.

3 seeds \$28,68 / 5 seeds \$50,19 / 10 seeds \$100,38

Cream Caramel



Cocktail of our best indicas, Blue Black x Maple Leaf Indica x White Rhino. Sweet and caramelized taste. Relaxing and antidepressant.



Indica/Sativa: 90%-10%.
Indoor Blooming: 8-9 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: End of September, beginning of October.

3s. \$28,68 / 5s. \$50,19 / 10s. \$100,38

S.A.D. S-1



Self-pollination of one of our strongest and most aromatic mothers. Afghan genetic, with a strong sweet aroma.



Indica/Sativa: 90%-10%.
Indoor Blooming: 8-9 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: End of September.

3s. \$21,50 / 5s. \$43,02 / 10s. \$86,04

Black Jack



One of our most powerful and productive hybrids, Black Domina x Jack Herer. Intense incensed Haze aroma. Very strong hybrid.



Indica/Sativa: 50%-50%.
Indoor Blooming: 9 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: Beginning of October.

3s. \$27,24 / 5s. \$48,76 / 10s. \$97,52

Jack 47



Hybrid between the two most powerful varieties of all time, Jack Herer x AK 47. Very high production with a very intense effect. Excellent force, the plant produces big buds full of resins. Sweet and incensed aroma.

Indica/Sativa: 25%-75%.
Indoor Blooming: 9 and a half weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: End of October.

3s. \$43,02 / 5s. \$71,71 / 10s. \$143,42

Ice Cool

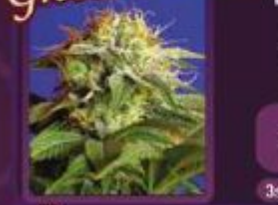


Developed starting from a NYC Diesel line, powerful with high production with a particular and strong blue cypress tone and exotic smell. Indica's plant structure with a strong euphoric effect that shows the presence of sativa in its genetic heritage.

Indica/Sativa: 40%-60%.
Indoor Blooming: 9 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: End of September.

3s. \$47,33 / 5s. \$68,84 / 10s. \$137,68

Green Poison



Hybrid variety principally indica with very high production. Excellent taste and aroma. Thanks to its quick flowering, it anticipates fungal attacks. Flowery and fruity taste.

Indica/Sativa: 70%-30%.
Indoor Blooming: 7 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: Mid to late September.

3s. \$32,98 / 5s. \$54,50 / 10s. \$109

Sweet Tai

Súper Tai x Early Skunk
Indica/Sativa: 30%-70%.
Indoor Blooming: 9 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: End of September, Beginning of October.
3s. \$21,50 / 5s. \$43,02 / 10s. \$86,04

Wild Rose

Rosetta Stone x HOG
Indica/Sativa: 35%-65%.
Indoor Blooming: 9 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: Mid to late of October.
3s. \$28,68 / 5s. \$50,19 / 10s. \$100,38

Mohan Ram

White Widow x S.A.D. S1
Indica/Sativa: 85%-15%.
Indoor Blooming: 8 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: End of September.
3s. \$28,68 / 5s. \$50,19 / 10s. \$100,38

Psicodelicia

USA Clone x Nepal's Plant
Indica/Sativa: 30%-70%.
Indoor Blooming: 8-9 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: End of September, Beginning of October.
3s. \$25,81 / 5s. \$47,33 / 10s. \$94,66

Ganesh Spirit

Sativa clone from Northern India's mountains
Indica/Sativa: 40%-60%.
Indoor Blooming: 9 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: Beginning-mid October.
3s. \$28,68 / 5s. \$50,19 / 10s. \$100,38

Flash Back #2

FLO x White Widow
Indica/Sativa: 40%-60%.
Indoor Blooming: 8-9 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: End of September, Beginning of October.
3s. \$24,37 / 5s. \$45,89 / 10s. \$91,78

Botafumeiros

Asian ancestry and Haze
Indica/Sativa: 25%-75%.
Indoor Blooming: 10 weeks.
Outdoor Harvest: Mid to late October.
3s. \$35,85 / 5s. \$57,37 / 10s. \$114,74

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COLORADO

tions like acetaminophen and common aspirin have the potential to kill but require no such medical evaluation, it's obvious that the acceptance of cannabis still has a long way to go.

One of the most patient-oriented dispensaries in the state is the aptly named Patients Choice, the first dispensary to open on the "Green Mile." Its facility is airy and convivial, while its staff works hard to keep the patient base of 4,000 people satisfied. Patients Choice offers grow classes, acupuncture, nutrition info, massage and one-to-one consultations with expert gardeners. The owners admit: "Now that we're getting regulated—and it's kind of nice to have a true free market, because it keeps you sharp—you've got to have your prices right. You've got to be on point, because why would they come here if they've got 1,500 places to go to?"

But not everyone in the state has the luxury of choice—certainly not those who live in tiny Alma, located in the mountains of central Colorado. Sparse populations eliminate the need for multiple dispensaries, but caring for patients is no less important. The dispensaries that do operate here

'It's kind of nice to have a true free market, because it keeps you sharp. You've got to be on point. Why would they come here if they've got 1,500 places to go to?'

are neighborly establishments; everybody knows everybody in the mountains, and neighbors want to help neighbors. The result is some of the finest medicine available in the state. The proprietors of High Country Healing in Alma are on a first-name basis with all of their patients and offer over 100 different genetic varieties of cannabis. It's also the headquarters of Americamm.org, a nonprofit organization for seriously ill patients that assists them with rent, living expenses and whatever else they need.

In the end, a number of legal issues have been created with the passage of these new med-pot restrictions. Lawmakers and the courts will eventually have to address the problems involving zoning laws, licensing fees, confidentiality requirements, advertising limits, search-and-seizure laws, workplace consumption, property rights, public safety, and controls over cannabis food products and the operation of grow houses.

Will the free market triumph under the weight of all these new regulations? Probably, but it will be harder. Most business owners who have committed themselves to compliance hope that the age-old business precepts of quality and service will lead to prosperity and longevity. But it's also obvious that compassion for patients will figure as a major component in the success of medical-marijuana dispensaries. It remains the one standard of cannabis commerce that can't be legislated. ✨



Samples ready for testing.



Robert Winnicki (center) with the Full Spectrum staff.



Measuring the cannabinoid profile.



Dispensaries depend on Full Spectrum for quality assurance.

13 percent. It's like weighing a piece of paper on a scale, lighting it, and trying to get an accurate reading as it's burning—the sample changes as you measure it. The HPLC doesn't work like that; instead of vaporizing the sample and running it through the detector, the cannabinoids never leave the liquid state. Instead of just reporting the THC number, we're able to show the acid variance and the neutral variance of the cannabinoid. We provide data on how much inactive THC is in it, and how much active THC."

Full Spectrum has also been responsible for debunking the THC myths that growers have cultivated around their strains. "Plants cannot contain more than 25 to 26 percent THC levels—it is physically impossible," Robert states flatly. "First of all, the plant is not 25 percent trichomes; even if the trichomes were 100 percent THC, the raw plant itself is not 25 percent trichomes. Think of it like this: 70 percent of you is water, correct? It's the same thing for a plant. After you take out the chlorophyll, the cell walls and everything else that is not THC, all you really have left is 25 percent. But if your business is based solely on numbers, maybe you inflate THC levels. If your first crop is 22 percent and you claim your medicine is the best, and somebody claims 23 down the street, you might report 24 next week. It becomes a vicious cycle."

Dealing with outrageous claims is part of Full Spectrum's daily work. "When people find out that their '30 percent' strain is actually a 12, it's a heartbreak. There are edibles in town with claims of huge concentrations of THC," Robert says. "We tested one sample—it had 1 milligram of THC. That's breaking the law! It's ripping sick people off!"

Full Spectrum tests for mercury, lead and cadmium as well. "Some of the nutrients out there have what I would consider dangerous levels of the heavy metals," Robert confides. "What a lot of people don't realize is that hemp and cannabis are actually very good at taking up

heavy metals. It's actually used as a bioremediation product in some parts of the world—if a ground field is contaminated by mercury, planting lots and lots of hemp will, over time, pull the heavy metals out of the soil. But if you're growing cannabis with a heavy-metal-contaminated solution, or if you don't flush well, the result will be a product that has been potentially contaminated with high levels of mercury, cadmium or lead."

Betty Aldworth, the vice president of Full Spectrum, adds this cautionary tale: "In our early days, one of our other representatives went to a wellness center to pick up some samples from the manager. About 45 minutes later, he got a call: 'You have to bring those back—the grower came in and doesn't want those tested.' Because he knew that he doesn't flush his crops enough. He knew pesticides would be present. There are people who don't want testing because they know their products can't make the cut."

Full Spectrum is also at the forefront of technology that will allow samples to be tested for their genetic origins. In other words, if you think you're buying an OG Kush, you'll have some guarantee that you actually are.

For all these reasons, the prestige of Full Spectrum Labs can only grow. After all, who doesn't want the very best pot—medicinal or otherwise?

"Some people like us, some people don't," Robert says. "Everyone who works here holds a bachelor's of science or higher in some science-related field. Everyone here has been doing chemistry for years. We follow the same procedures that forensic scientists follow—the exact same procedures."

He also points out one final upside to testing cannabis stringently: "Dispensaries can use the data we provide as a two-pronged marketing tool," Robert says. "Number one, they can say: 'We have clean, safe, reliable medicine.' Or they can claim: 'We've got the bomb!'" —DS
Visit fullspectrumlaboratories.com.

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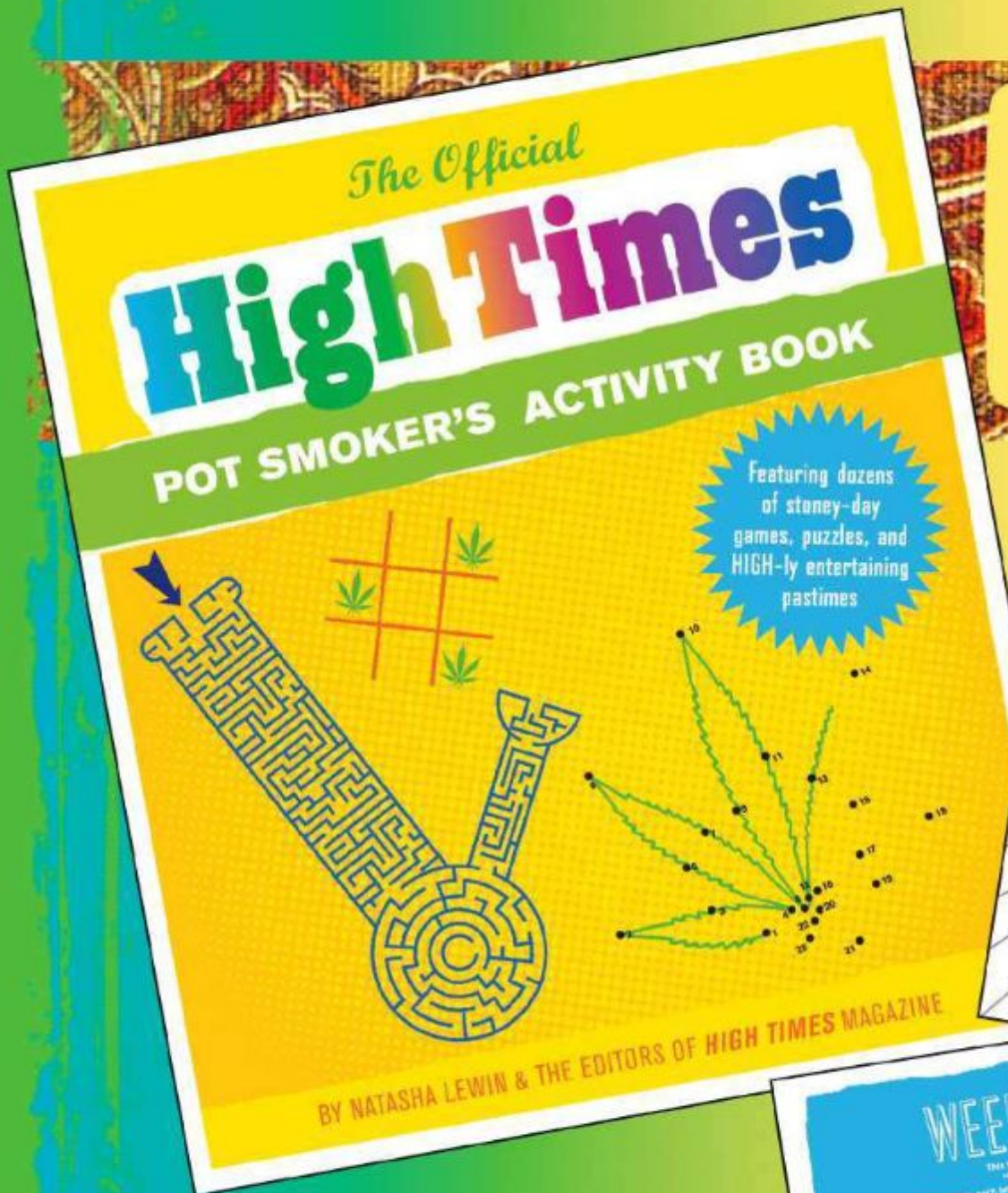
composition

vegetable compost, native block cut florida peat, chunky perlite, coconut coir, dolomitic lime, organic chicken manure, gypsum, 72 natural organic trace minerals

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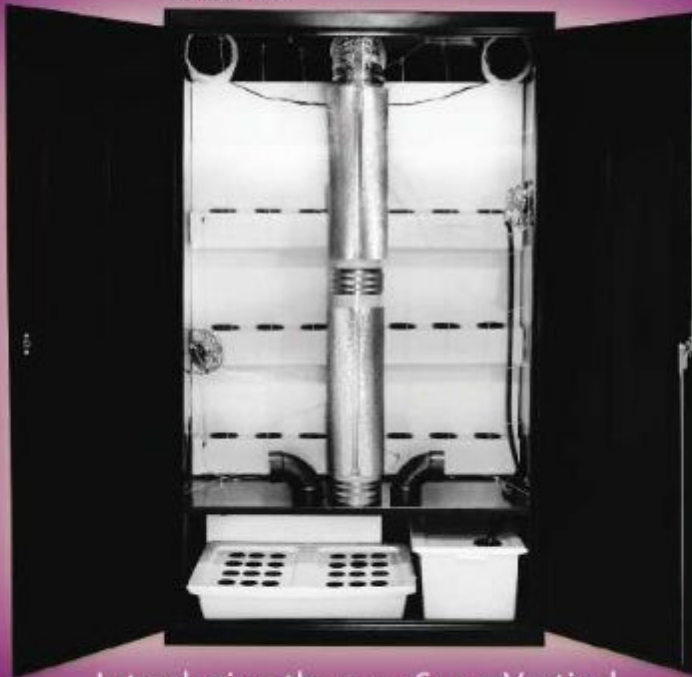
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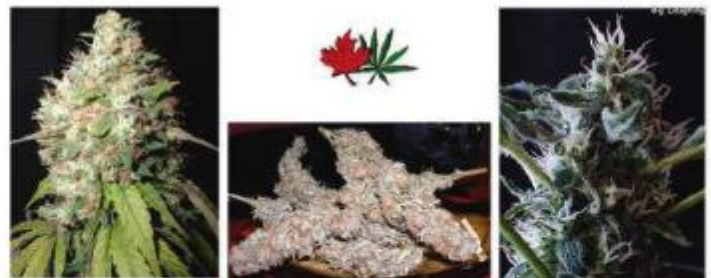


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Why should outdoor growers have all the fun(gus)? Here's a simple and informative guide to staying 100% organic in your closet or other small grow space. Story & photos by Mr. Hades

Clean white walls reflect light to reach lower branches and leaves.

CLOSET GROWING FOR SUPERIOR CANNABIS

Bella Ciao from Tiki Seeds, organically grown in a closet.

Introduction

Many people want to know the secret to growing high-quality, connoisseur-level buds in their closets or other small spaces without having to rely on complex hydroponic units, synthetic nutrients or difficult-to-prepare soil mixes. The fact is, there is no "secret" to it—all you have to do is treat your plants the way they deserve to be treated. And the best way to do that is to duplicate nature in your own home by making your grow as organic as possible; don't complicate things with expensive equipment or synthetic chemicals that can quickly damage your plants. It's also important to avoid *overcaring* for your plants by feeding or watering them too much.

A simple way to achieve high-quality buds from a closet grow is by going 100% organic. Using a variety of efficient methods and techniques will allow you to gradually "dial in" how to get a great organic harvest with every cycle. Organically grown cannabis undoubtedly possesses a taste, aroma and appearance that exceeds those of chemically grown nuggets. All it requires is an understanding of the symbiotic relationship between the beneficial microbes in "living soil" and the plant roots that share the space.

Grow Stats

Room: 6' x 6' closet

Lighting: 400-watt metal-halide (MH) and T5 with daylight bulbs

Soil/Nutes: FoxFarm Original Planting Mix

FoxFarm Happy Frog Potting Soil

Earth Juice Grow

Earth Juice Bloom

Blackstrap molasses

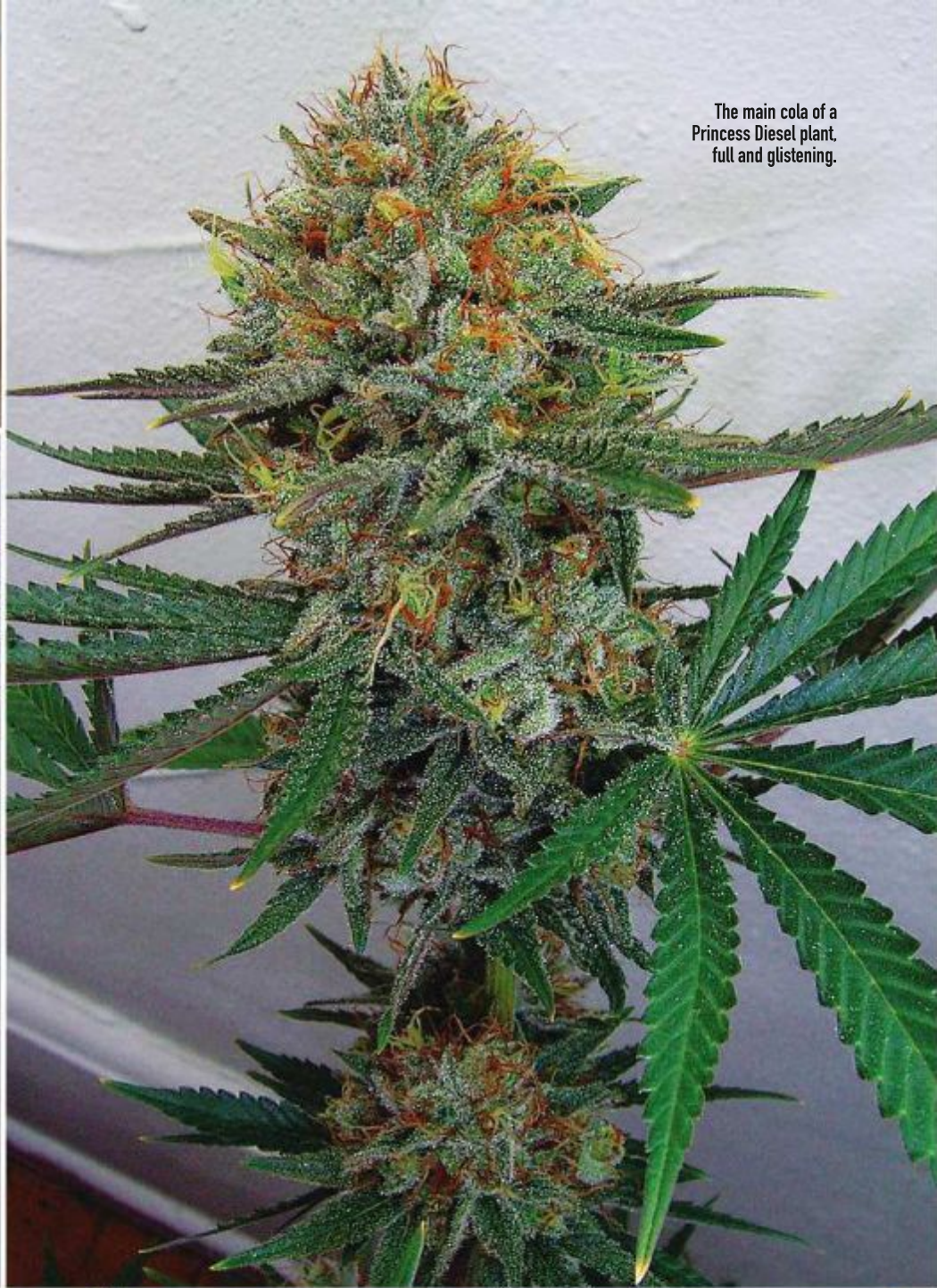
Genetics: Bella Ciao (by Tiki Seeds Company)

Princess Diesel

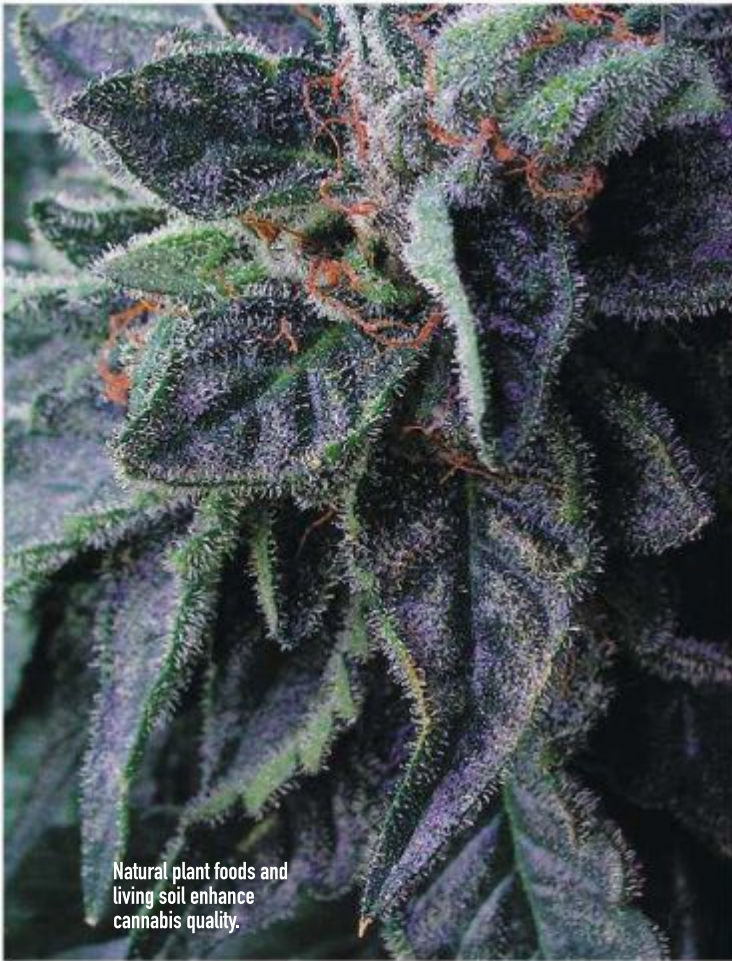
P- 91



A nug of Princess Diesel on display.



The main cola of a Princess Diesel plant, full and glistening.



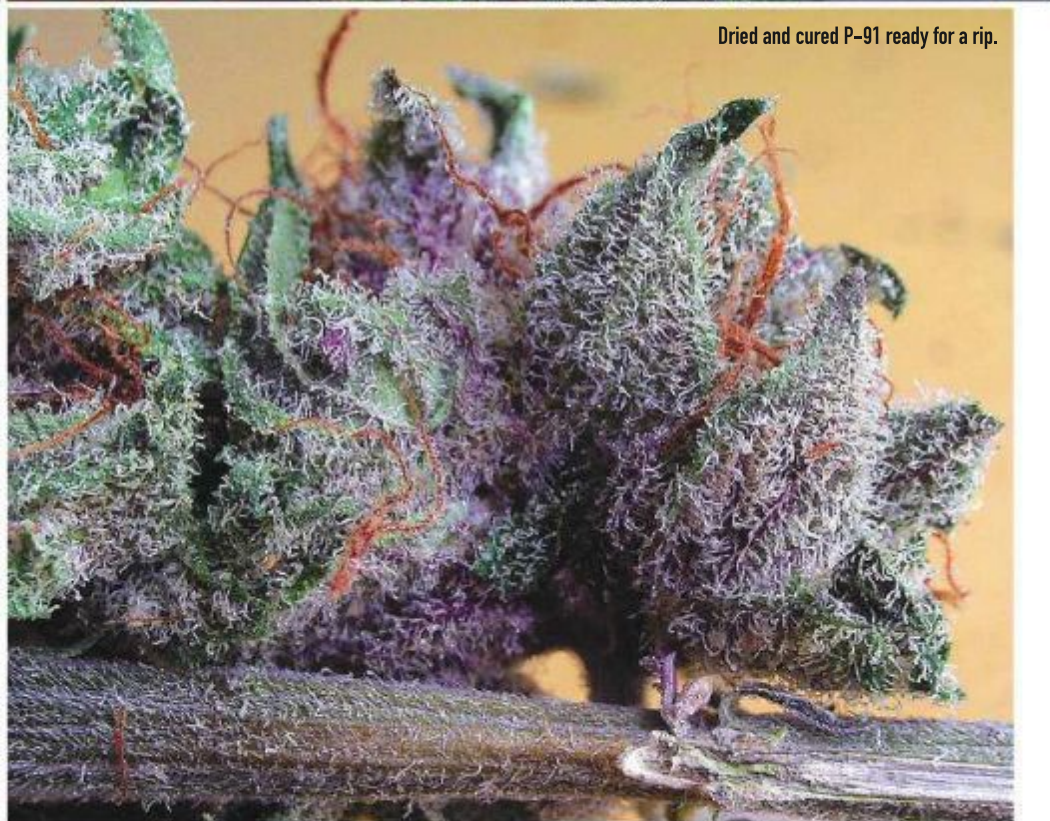
Natural plant foods and living soil enhance cannabis quality.

What Is 'Organic'?

All organic products are not created equal. "Organic-based" and "100% organic" are two totally different things: "Organic-based" means that the products contain chemicals and ingredients that are not considered fully organic and therefore should not be used if you want a 100% organic harvest. On the other hand, "100% organic" means just that: The company has either gone through organic certification for their product, or it was made without pesticides, synthetic fertilizers, sewage sludge, genetically modified organisms or ionizing radiation.

Make sure that all your nutrients and soil mixes are *100% organic* by reading the label carefully. If you have any questions about a product, ask the manufacturer or store employee about it. If need be, simply tell them you're growing indoor organic tomatoes, as their needs are somewhat similar to cannabis plants.

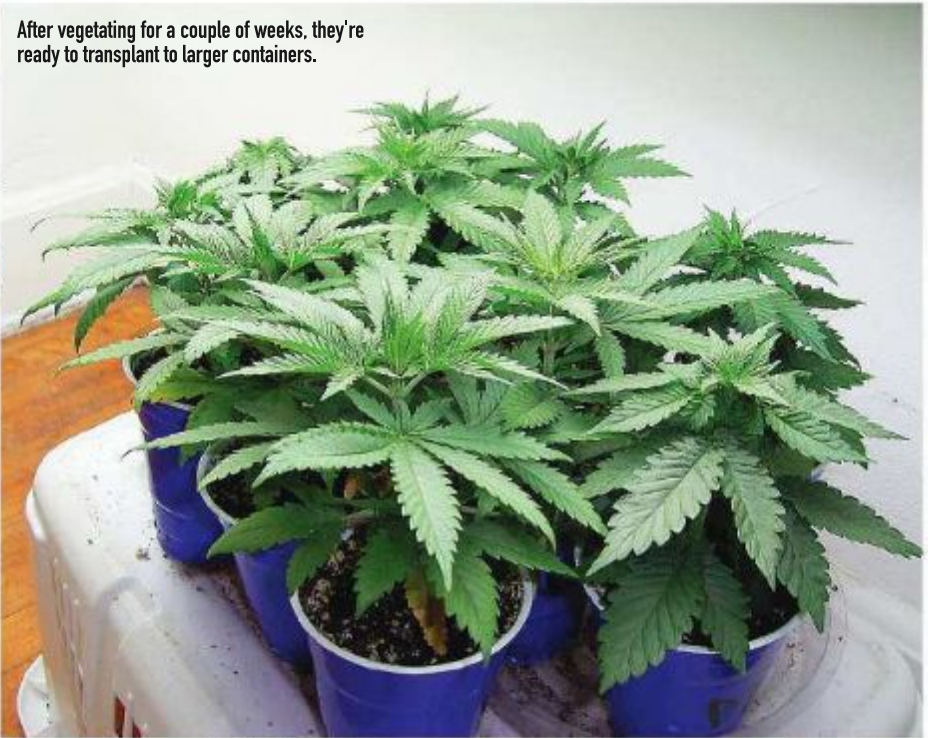
Fully organic liquid nutrients will be thicker than their synthetic counterparts and will sometimes look and smell exactly like what they're made from: poo. But don't be worried—these products are a natural and mild food that your plants can easily absorb. Some of their awesome ingredients include earthworm castings, bird and bat guano, Norwegian sea kelp, composted peat moss and sphagnum peat moss, just to name a few. FoxFarm Ocean Forest Soil Mix contains ingredients like fish and crab meal that are also great food for your plants.



Dried and cured P-91 ready for a rip.



Seedlings sprout in 16 oz. plastic cups full of soil mix.



After vegetating for a couple of weeks, they're ready to transplant to larger containers.

Buy or Mix?

FoxFarm and Earth Juice are two excellent companies offering 100% organic soil mixes and nutrients that are both simple to use and mild for your plants. Buying a pre-mixed, high-quality product like these is more expensive, but it's also more efficient than making your own mix, for several reasons.

A high-quality grow medium such as FoxFarm's Happy Frog Potting Soil will start off your seedlings perfectly and won't need any added nutrients for up to two to four weeks from germination; simply add plain water in lieu of feeding. For this grow, FoxFarm's Happy Frog Potting Soil and Original Planting Mix were used in conjunction with Earth Juice Grow and Bloom nutrient products to produce top-quality, medicinal-grade buds. There were no additives or stimulants involved, and no pesticides or inorganic fertilizers were introduced to these plants.

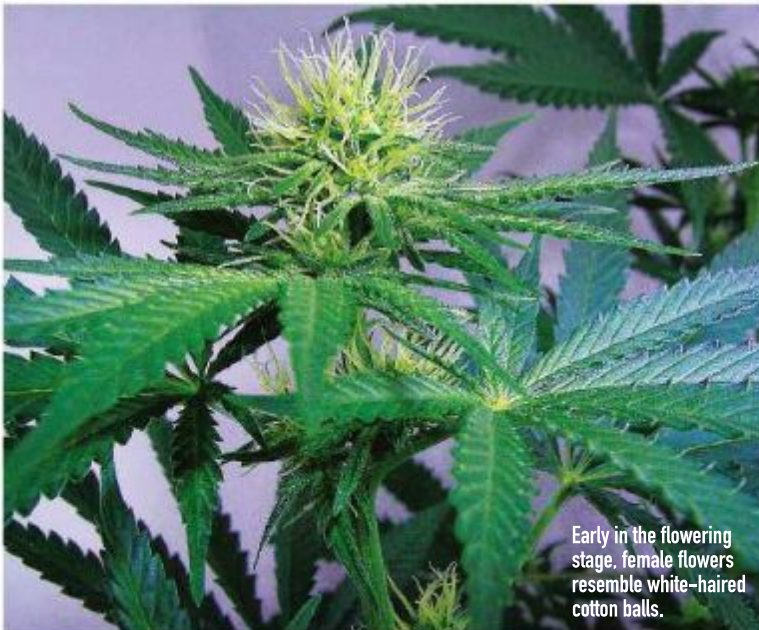
Less Is More

Keep in mind when feeding your plants to always use *less* than the label says. The company's information on dosage isn't always plant-specific or precise (they want to sell more nutrients, of course), and feeding less is always better than feeding too much. Also, use diluted or half-doses of all fertilizers before you know what they can do.

Always oxygenate and/or distill water in an open container for at least 24 hours before adding any organic matter in order to dechlorinate the water and prevent damage to your roots (as well as the mycorrhizae, the biological "microherd" in your soil). The chlorine will dissipate into the air, leaving your water cleaner and ready to use.



After transplantation, the roots have plenty of room to expand.



Early in the flowering stage, female flowers resemble white-haired cotton balls.



Plants will continue to stretch during the first weeks of budding.

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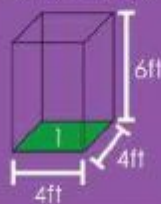
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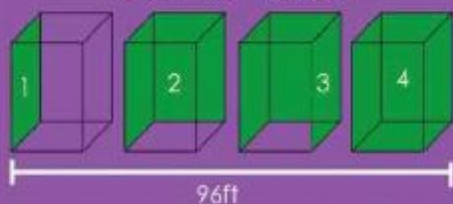


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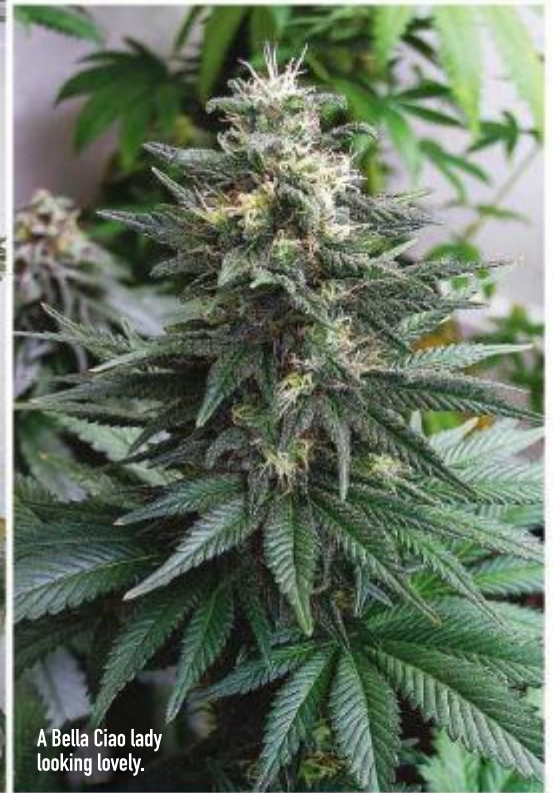
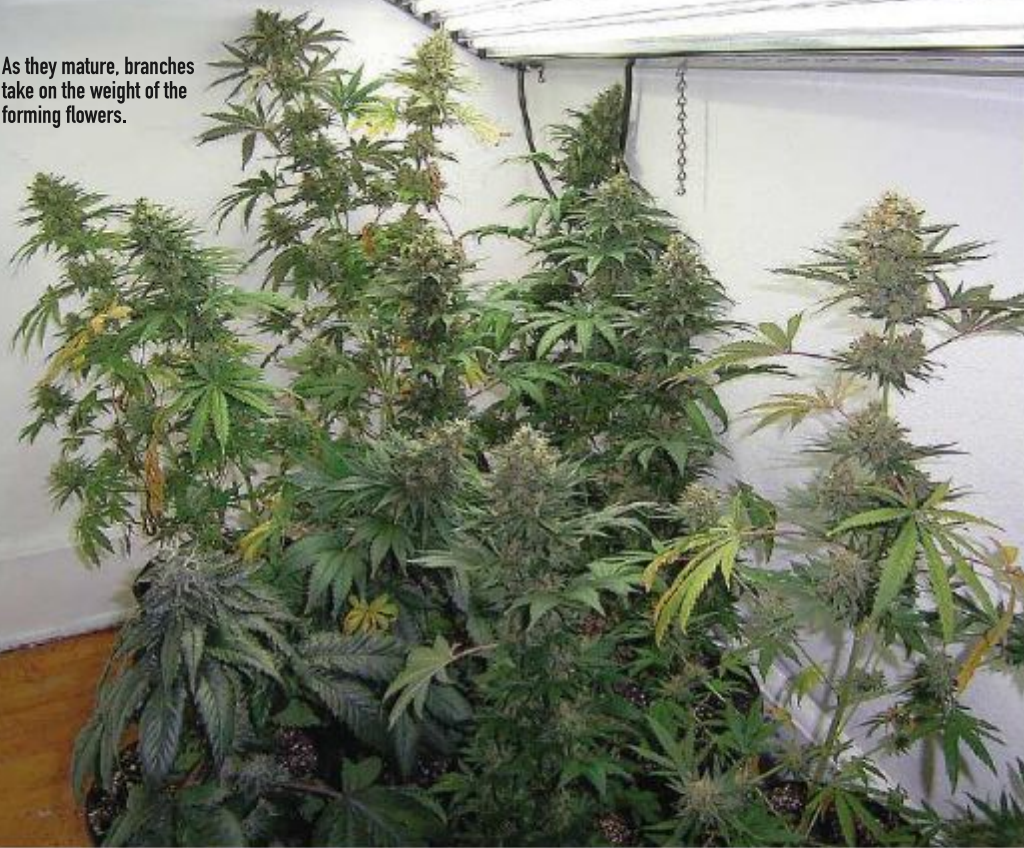
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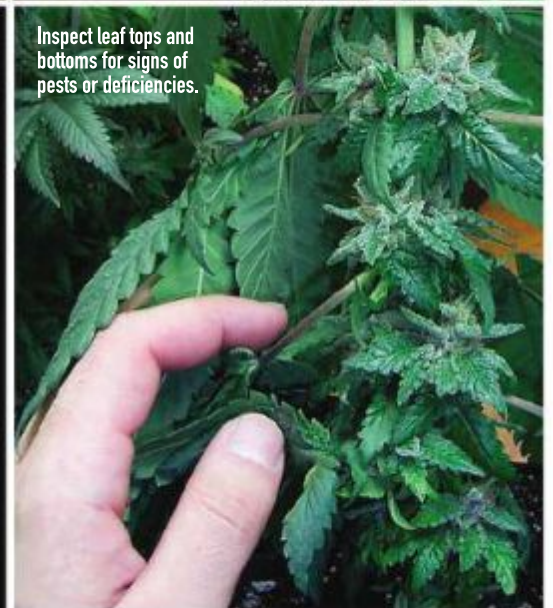
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As they mature, branches take on the weight of the forming flowers.



A Bella Ciao lady looking lovely.

Inspect leaf tops and bottoms for signs of pests or deficiencies.



Organics and pH

With organic growing, pH isn't an issue as long as you're using the correct organic mixes, since most contain a very high amount of humus (humates), which works to buffer the pH of the grow medium and nutrients. Humate materials are substances formed from the biological and chemical breakdown of animal and plant life over an extremely long period of time (usually millions of years). Humates do a lot more than simply buffer pH; they also reduce germination time, expand root growth, increase oxygen in the soil, increase water retention, bond pesticides and heavy metals, and transport microelements for absorption.

Pay Attention to Your 'Microherd'

The mycorrhizae in your soil play a big part in the success of organic growing, and by using mild nutrient mixes and plain, dechlorinated water, you can keep your microherd alive and well, ensuring that your plants' water and nutrient uptake are at their highest—which in turn will mean overall improved plant growth and yields thanks to a healthy, living grow medium.

Cleanliness of the grow space is essential to avoiding many maladies.



Clean House

Before starting a grow, make sure the room is fully cleaned and sterilized with mild household cleaners. Take all of your existing plants out of the room and place them in a separate clean, safe room, then stop the ventilation in your growroom. Sweep and vacuum the entire area and wipe down the floors, walls and ceiling with a mild soap mix.

After the room is clean, put your plants back in and resume ventilation. Never let pets or people into your growroom, and also make it a habit to shower and change clothes before going into the room if you were recently outdoors. If you have houseplants, be sure they're never kept in the same room as your grow and wash your hands after coming into contact with them.

Be sure to always inspect leaves and their undersides every week for pests; this way, if they do happen to intrude, you'll be ready for them with natural pest remedies. There are plenty of ways to eradicate pests naturally without having to use chemical insecticides. One good way is to use a spray application of neem oil and water weekly until the mites are gone, or else a mixture of two tablespoons of hot-pepper sauce with a few drops of Ivory soap in a quart of water (also applied weekly). Or you can find 100% natural sprays with ingredients like pyrethrum that will also work well for pests.

For soft-bodied insects like thrips, you can use a product called Monterey Garden Insect Spray, which is listed with OMRI (the Organic Materials Review Institute) and includes the 100% natural ingredient Spinosad, a relatively new insecticide that was discovered from soil in an abandoned rum distillery in 1982. The pest dies within one to two days after ingesting its active ingredient, which is safely broken down by light and soil microbes into carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen. Spinosad controls not only thrips, but also caterpillars, beetles, leaf miners and more.

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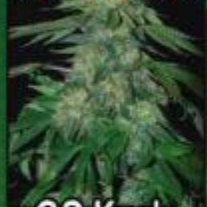
Flower Power

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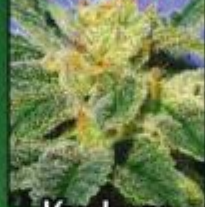
Chocolope

DNA Genetics



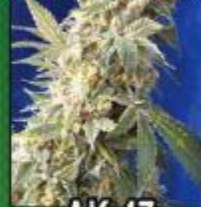
OG Kush

TH Seeds



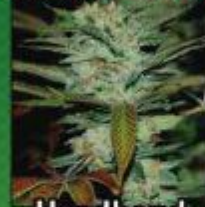
Kushage

Serious Seeds

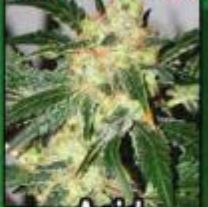


AK-47

Reserva Privada Paradise Seeds



Headband



Acid

Holy Smoke



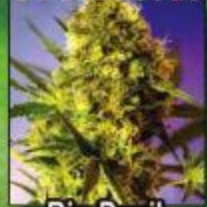
Strawberry Diesel

Secret Valley



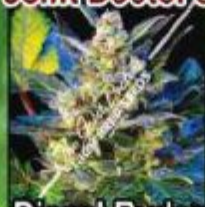
Purple Pineberry

Sweet Seeds



Big Devil

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Diesel Ryder

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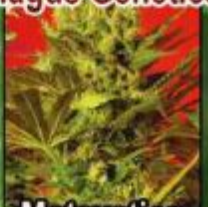
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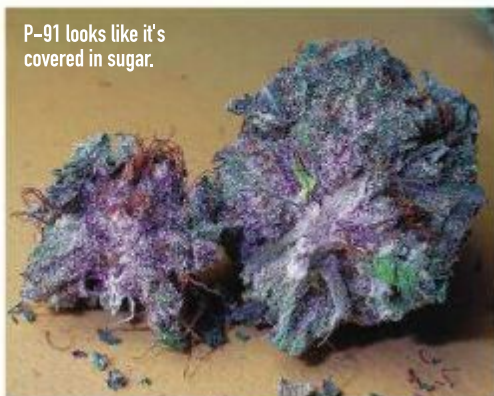
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P-91 looks like it's covered in sugar.



A group shot of various colas post harvest.



Roots flourish in living soil.



Behold the complexities of properly grown cannabis.

Growing connoisseur-quality buds organically is simply a matter of making a few different choices to create an environment for your plants to thrive in, even in a small closet.

Myco= Fungus, Rhiza= Root

Mycorrhizae work via the symbiotic association between a beneficial fungus and a plant's roots, meaning the fungus and its plant host survive by mutually benefiting each other. Mycorrhizae naturally form a friendly relationship with the roots of most plant species found on our planet; they're a very important part of soil life and soil chemistry, increasing the surface area of a plant's roots anywhere from 10 to 100 times and significantly improving its health.

This beneficial microherd literally grows on the plant's roots, receiving a constant supply of carbohydrates like glucose and sucrose made by the plant. In return, the plant receives the benefit of the fungi's ability to absorb water and break down mineral nutrients. Mycorrhizae increase the plant's ability to resist diseases and pests as well as drought. Plants grown in sterilized soils containing no mycorrhizae often experience poor growth and lower yields.

There are some 100% organic soil mixes that contain beneficial microbes, such as the FoxFarm Happy Frog Potting Soil and Original Planting Mix used here. Another option is watering the soil with mycorrhizal powder before planting or adding granules when mixing the soil. Any of these options are an excellent way to start your microherd.

Carbo Boost

Using blackstrap molasses in the last four to six weeks of flowering is an excellent way to increase your plants' nutrient uptake, thereby boosting their growth and potential yields. Blackstrap molasses is a significant source of carbohydrates, magnesium, potassium, calcium and iron, all of which act as a superfood to the beneficial microbes in your mix, thereby supercharging plant growth and increasing resin production.

Use blackstrap molasses at the rate of 1 teaspoon per gallon with every other watering and be sure it's mixed thoroughly before use. Also

make sure that you specifically use *blackstrap* molasses, which contains the essential amounts of beneficial nutrients and minerals (using regular molasses is *not* recommended because of its poor mineral content). Also be sure to choose "unsulphured" molasses so that you don't damage either the plants' roots or the microherd. Blackstrap molasses also works as a chelating agent, binding nutrients and making them highly accessible to your plants.

Tips for Organic Success

Use only fully organic nutrients and soils to keep your plants pure and natural.

Use at least a 10% perlite in your mix to keep it less dense and improve drainage.

Anytime you water your plants, make sure the water has been sitting out for at least 24 hours prior to use, or has been oxygenated with an air pump and air stone for at least 24 hours, to prevent the chlorine found in tap water from damaging roots and beneficial microbes.

Use diluted and half-doses of organic nutrients, and feed every other watering to make sure that overfertilization isn't an issue.

Conclusion

Growing connoisseur-quality buds organically is simply a matter of making a few different choices to create an environment for your plants to thrive in, even indoors or within a small closet. Keeping your plants purely organic will let you reap the maximum benefits from them, and it's also healthier for you—just like organic foods. Give your plants the things they'd get from nature and they will give you something very special in return! ✨

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A large indoor cannabis grow room with rows of plants under a white netting system. The plants are densely packed and supported by vertical stakes. The room has a high ceiling with visible ductwork and lighting fixtures.

GROWIN' IN THE 'DAM

STORY & PHOTOS BY NICO ESCONDIDO

Every summer for the past three years, **HIGH TIMES** has sent me to Amsterdam to survey the goods and get a preview of what the entries for that year's **HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup** (held each November) might look like. Sure, it's a bit of a shameless plug for our annual event, but there are some definite perks to getting that scoop. (I mean, who doesn't want to know who's entering what new strains each year?) Still, this year, rather than write up a multi-part Cup series, we decided that we'd also add a feature about the grow scene in Amsterdam, as it's been a while since we covered cultivation in the Holy Land.

A large indoor grow room filled with rows of cannabis plants. The plants are densely packed and appear to be in the flowering stage, with some showing white trichomes. The room is illuminated by bright, overhead lights, and the walls are covered in reflective material. A large black duct is visible on the right side of the room.

This beautiful room belonging to the legendary Amsterdam grower known as Bear, was filled with the Casey Jones strain.

SOME BACKGROUND

What we found across the pond wasn't as shocking as it once might have been. That's probably because most of that grow knowledge (and, of course, forward political thinking) has finally matriculated throughout Europe and over to North (and even South) America.

Looking back, the Dutch are primarily responsible for early advents in nearly all indoor-grow theory. Their use of automated hydroponic systems, strong nutrient programs and advanced grow mediums such as rockwool and clay aggregates helped revolutionize indoor growing. However, when it comes to space and gardens, Amsterdam is hardly different these days from the indoor scene in our urban centers such as New York, Boston and Miami (sorry, West Coasters, you guys blow it up way too big to be put in this lot).

Still, while not a whole lot has changed, the growrooms in Holland are progressing, having become tighter, better yielding and higher quality since our first forays into their indoor-grow world. Some of this can be attributed to the influx of new and better genetics over the past 20 years, but some of it is due to tenacity, technology and the good old-fashioned green thumb that the Dutch seem to naturally possess (just check out their tulip fields).

Trellising turns SOG into ScrOG and gives plants much needed support indoors.



AT FIRST GLANCE

There are a lot of words that come to mind when thinking about cannabis cultivation in Amsterdam: *stealthy*, *simple* and “*sea of green*” (SOG) are a few key notions. Amsterdam is a medium- to large-sized city, and even with all its beautiful canals and old-world charm, it’s still an urban center. Even on the fringes of the city, where flower fields, dairy farms and windmills prevail, growing marijuana isn’t done out in the open, as many think. This means that space is a consideration just as it is here, and keeping grow operations hidden is very important.

While the consequences for getting caught are still less than in most areas of the US, that balance is slowly shifting, and growers in Holland know that they will—at the very least—lose their entire setup if they are detected. Thus, many growrooms look very similar to those found in cities in America and across the world. The Dutch have perfected the indoor techniques that are commonly found throughout Europe and North America.

One can get a good sense of a grower’s aptitude simply by inspecting his grow medium. Certain mediums require advanced knowledge and loads of experience to work with. Rockwool is at the top on the list when it comes to finicky mediums, but it’s the top pick for most growers in Amsterdam. This is due to the fact that the Dutch prefer to use the SOG technique, which almost goes hand in hand with hydroponic setups. A newer advance in this technique adds netting or wide-holed screening to upgrade to a so-called “screen of green” (ScrOG). Here, the netting helps to separate the branches for smarter light usage and better penetration. The netting also adds additional support to burgeoning colas during flowering.

The netting has another added benefit: Tight spaces and small rooms that utilize a packed SOG technique often become very difficult for growers to navigate. Getting into these gardens to stake up plants as they continue through their flowering cycle may become nearly impossible. Having the netting up and in place from the start of flowering onward prevents headaches as well as the need to remove plants to get better access to the garden, and it also prevents the tragedy of crushing one’s precious plants.

TECHNOLOGY

Aside from new genetics, the latest boom in cultivation in Amsterdam comes from technological advancements within the industry. While this is really a facet of cannabis cultivation that has touched growers across the globe, it’s particularly interesting to see in Amsterdam, which has always been at the forefront when it comes to cutting-edge grow-room technology.

What’s most interesting to see in Amsterdam is how the growers here maintain the philosophy of keeping things simple, which in the end really negates a lot of the new products and technology we see on the market these days. For instance, when it comes to lighting, you won’t see any experimental LEDs or row after row of air-cooled lamps. In fact, in some regards Dutch growers seem to be ahead of the curve and able to weed out the gimmicky theory by relying on their tried-and-true common sense.

Here in North America, we commonly air-cool lamps because that’s what we are told to do. Reflector hoods come standard with flanges ready to be connected to each other via ducting and cooled by inline fans that blow or suck heat byproduct out of the grow-room. However, when daisy-chaining multiple lamps and putting them all on one or two air-cooling circuits, growers are really pushing heat toward one spot: the lamp at the end of the line, which collects all the other lamps’ heat before exhausting it away. The lamps at the end of these air-cooled chains end up either burning out completely or running at two-thirds or half strength before the completion of the first crop, causing growers to either have to replace bulbs much more frequently or suffer weaker yields from the plants near the edges of their gardens.

Another advanced component of marijuana growing in Amsterdam involves atmospheric control and the technologies deployed to aid growers in this area. Fine-tuning everything from temperature to humidity to carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels can mean the difference between a mediocre crop and top-quality buds. These days, there’s a large selection of controllers, timers and other gadgets designed for these exact purposes. Some of them act as master controllers and allow growers to precisely monitor all levels of the growroom atmosphere, while other controllers are specialized, tailored to a specific growroom condition. Most of these products can be found in grow shops or online and at fair market prices—however, be sure to read reviews and feedback before purchasing this type of equipment, as some manufacturers are known to produce inferior products.

Some of the most common atmospheric controllers in use in Amsterdam (and pretty much anywhere else you find a well-run growroom) include products from Custom Automated Products (CAP), Autogrow Systems, Sentinel Control Systems and Plug ‘N’ Grow. Each company has variations on the same theme, offering digital or knob controls and varying compatibilities and connection capabilities.

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The Dutch Ministry of Cannabis

To talk about growing cannabis in Amsterdam without discussing Holland's liberal attitude toward the practice—or the fact that the Dutch government sanctions and even participates in it—would be an injustice. In fact, HIGH TIMES was lucky enough to be asked on a tour of Holland's government-licensed medical-marijuana factory, situated just a few hours southeast of Amsterdam.



Bedrocan, the Dutch government's medical-marijuana laboratory, is an impressive warehouse-sized space that has been in operation for over 30 years. The facility is of intelligent design and immaculately kept, as the growers here practice sterile methods throughout. With so much experience, the entire facility can be turnkey-operated, meaning that everything is automated to the point that a substitute employee can walk in and follow the laminated directions on the wall of each room to keep everything running (and growing) smoothly without ever having been there before. This is bureaucratic growing for sure.

The charge of Bedrocan is to supply all of the medically licensed patients of the Netherlands with their medicine. This equates to roughly 300 kilos a year, according to its contract with the Dutch government. While this may not seem like a large quantity, when one considers both the size of the country and the fact that patients can still get their medicine from one of thousands of regular coffeeshops throughout the country, those numbers become more understandable. The medicine that Bedrocan produces, however, cannot be bought in any coffeeshop and must be picked up directly at pharmacies by registered patients.

The bud that Bedrocan grows is an old-school Super Silver Haze that the growers here refer to as the Original Jack Herer. These genetics came from Nevil himself and were originally known as the A-5 Haze. Still, Bedrocan, keeping up with the times, is trying out some new genetics and searching for lines that possess high levels of cannabidiol (CBD), a cannabinoid that has been shown to possess excellent medicinal properties in clinical tests. Bedrocan has all of its cannabis sent out to other high-tech labs where it can be tested to get a total breakdown of all cannabinoid levels. On

HYDROPONICS

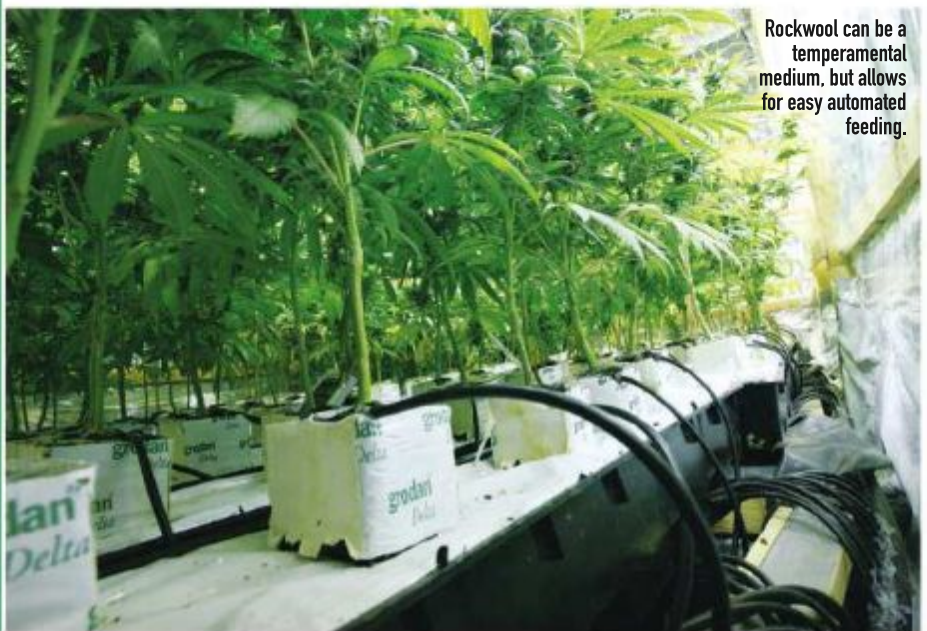
Indoor growing is particularly suited to the use of hydroponics. For those unfamiliar with the concept, hydroponics has become a general term for growing in any soilless medium in which the root systems are regularly inundated with nutrient solution. However, today there are lots of artificial soils, or soilless mixes, that are peat- or sphagnum-based and very popular among hydro growers.

While there are a plethora of hydroponic grow mediums—clay aggregates, coco fiber and lava rock, just to name a few—the most commonly used hydroponic medium in Amsterdam is still rockwool. And the Dutch—most of whom are advanced growers—have become masters at using this fibrous material. Synthetically produced and spun out of fibers from natural minerals such as stone, the medium is

usually used in trays for germinating seeds or starting clones.

The first and perhaps most important rule when using rockwool is never to use it in a system that has catch saucers beneath the pots or plant beds. The idea here is not to let rockwool mediums reabsorb the sitting water that has already passed through the grow medium. Allowing rockwool to reabsorb nutrient solution can raise the pH of the medium two to three points in just a matter of a few short days. A pH of 5.5 to 6.0 is ideal when using rockwool, and it's important that growers measure the pH of the rockwool runoff as well as the ppm (parts per million) every day. Even the slightest fluctuations can severely affect plant health and yields and lead to even worse consequences.

Because of rockwool's sterile and porous nature as well as its neutral pH lev-



Rockwool can be a temperamental medium, but allows for easy automated feeding.

a thick, wool-like material that is fairly porous and excellent at retaining moisture.

However, rockwool isn't always the best match for the beginner grower, as it has certain nuances that require close attention. While rockwool, or mineral wools, are often chosen for their ability to hold water for longer periods of time and release H₂O molecules to roots much more easily than do soil particles, rockwool can still cause large fluctuations in pH levels and may also lend itself more to nutrient lock-up than would better-buffering materials such as artificial soils.

Rockwool comes in a variety of forms. There is bulk rockwool, which can come as small, crouton-shaped pellets, and there is free-form spun wool that is dense and fibrous. These forms can be used to fill pots, but they can also get severely matted down under the stress of water weight. Then there are rockwool cubes, blocks and slabs: These can grow and support plants directly and are used in a wide array of hydroponic systems, as they maintain their form and integrity fairly well. Lastly, there are rockwool plugs,

els at the time of manufacturing, it doesn't offer the same level of buffering against nutrients that heavier mediums (like an artificial soil) do. Buffering helps prevent plants from getting nutrient burn by creating layers of particles between sensitive root tips and the incoming nutrient solution, allowing root systems to absorb their foods slowly from the medium as the plants need them.

Another concern that needs to be navigated is the buildup of salts from nutrients within the rockwool. Dutch growers have learned that less is more when it comes to nutrient solutions, and they are very careful not to overfeed their gardens. Regularly flushing gardens, or feeding them only with fresh water, is a necessary part of working with rockwool gardens, as is changing out the water in the reservoirs twice a week. At least once a week, growers should flush their gardens to prevent salt buildup that will in turn cause nutrient lock-up at the root level. This happens as minerals from the nutrients clump together, which end up changing the different electrical charges (on the molecular level) that are necessary for the uptake of nutrients by the roots.

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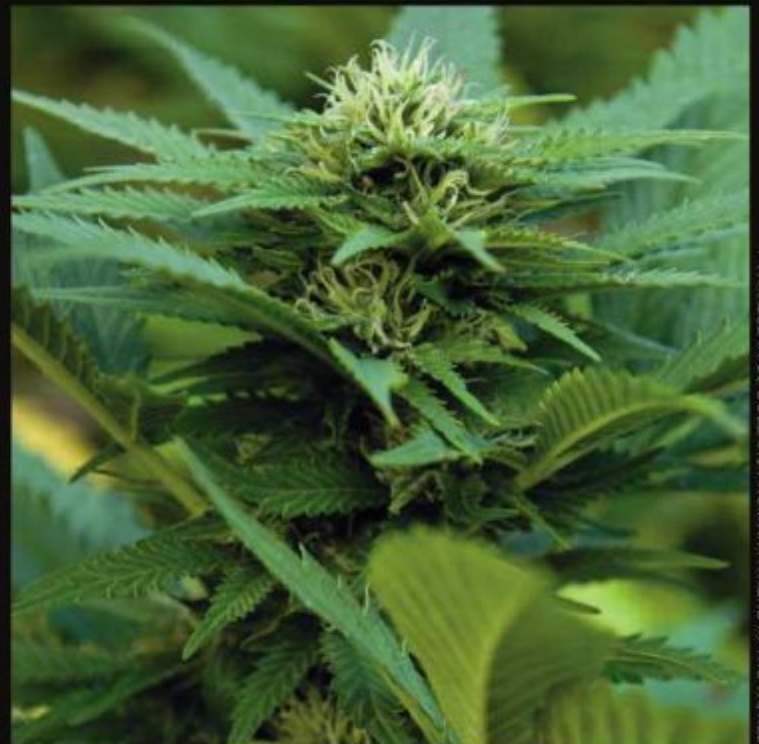
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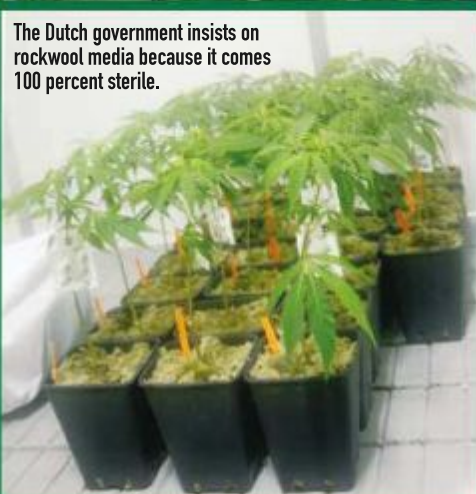
top of that, these labs also test to make sure that no molds or contaminants exist in the medicine, and Bedrocan uses various forms of radiation to treat and sterilize the buds before the packaging phase.

Ironically enough, some of the cultivation methods deployed at Bedrocan fly in the face of today's best cultivation theory. However, with decades of recorded data, Bedrocan is confident that its methods are optimal for achieving its given task. Perhaps the biggest oddity came inside the flowering rooms, where lamps were affixed to the ceiling and remain stationary—30 feet above the garden canopy. Another interesting facet of the growing here is that none of the plants are topped or super-cropped, instead growing straight up to single-top colas. The plants are grown out of small (1-gallon) containers filled with spun rockwool. But the plants grow so tall that the container pots must be attached to the concrete floors and the plants staked to large poles to help support them. The containers are lifted off the floors with mats to keep the root systems from getting too cold during the winter months. All in all, the flowering rooms are a bit startling at first glance, but it's hard to argue with their rate of success.

Still, for all the misgivings one may have about Bedrocan's cultivation techniques, there were quite a few impressive facets to the work it does. The factory itself, nestled among endless miles of farms, looks more like a warehouse from the outside than a laboratory. Once inside the facility, it is quickly apparent that this place is one big machine, turning out buds on a consistent schedule without ever missing a beat. The interior is divided into offices, vegetative rooms, flowering rooms, trimming areas and drying rooms. Before entering any of the grow areas, you must be outfitted with sterile lab garments, including booties placed over your shoes. Inside the main cultivation area, huge HVAC systems line the walls, along with control boxes that monitor and precisely adjust all of the atmospheric conditions, everything from humidity to temperature.

Four main rooms comprise the grow-

The Dutch government insists on rockwool media because it comes 100 percent sterile.



rooms—one vegetative and three flowering rooms. The rooms are staggered so that one is just starting to bloom while another is ready to harvest, and everything runs on a well-planned schedule. Outside the flowering rooms, huge vats sit filled with purified water waiting to be mixed with nutrients, then tested by meters (pH, ppm and EC), and finally distributed to the thirsty plants inside via pumps and spaghetti lines. Each room is also fitted with controllable vent fans and larger watering hoses (more likely to be used for cleaning than feeding).

When the plants are harvested, the wives and daughters of the local farmers are hired to come in and trim. Every element of this process is stringently controlled, with employees entering through a clean room and being passed their work through windows in the wall. The women trim the buds *by hand* (no scissors or trim equipment is used), and once the buds are perfectly manicured, they're passed through another window where a Bedrocan official takes the inventory, logs it in and then stores it in a walk-in vault. As you can see, these guys really don't mess around.

But the most impressive part? Well, that's easy: the bud itself. For all of the time invested, the system certainly pays off, because the herb lives up to its claim—it's medicinal and makes people feel much better. If there's one thing the Dutch can do, it's grow good marijuana. ✨

GENETICS

Amsterdam has always been known as the global crossroads of the genetics trade. How could it not be? With decades of liberal-minded marijuana laws attracting growers, breeders, importers and connoisseurs of all sorts from every corner of the world, Amsterdam is a hub of seed proliferation. On top of that, the godfather of all cannabis breeders, the man known simply as Nevil, started one of the first-ever seed companies (the Seed Bank) using a Dutch government grant aimed at providing medical cannabis to patients with various ailments.

In recent years, Amsterdam has had a somewhat controversial reputation when it comes to genetics. Since the city is home to scores of seed companies, the competition to develop new varieties here is fierce. Besides tons of allegations regarding the theft and sale of other companies' seeds, there are ethical questions about hybridizing strains in order to create seeds for genetics that are clone-only (meaning no males exist to pollinate a female and make pure seeds of that strain). An extension of this problem ties into the debate over feminized seeds as well. Multiple processes exist both to create feminized seeds and to "self" a plant (i.e., to turn a female into a hermaphrodite when no male exists in order to create pure or non-hybridized seeds of that strain). However, these processes are controversial in and of themselves, as they often require unnatural procedures and sometimes the use of unhealthy chemicals. On top of that, many argue that such processes dilute gene pools, while hybridization projects for the sake of making and selling seeds mutate genetics that were once prized lines.

Today, the seed trade in Amsterdam has been revitalized, in a way, by the influx of new genetics brought to Holland by immigrant growers seeking to capitalize on the world-famous weed game of Amsterdam. Unfortunately, this influx has also coincided with a conservative political movement in Amsterdam that has produced a backlash against the cannabis industry, curtailing what was once a lucrative business just a few short years ago. Still, new strains are popping up all over Amsterdam at an alarming rate, causing many to speculate about their origins and validity. Big seed companies claim to be combing the planet in search of lost landrace genetics, while smaller, new-to-the-scene growers claim to be bringing the best strains from their homelands.

On the positive side, the new genetics in Amsterdam are, in fact, of high quality. Savvy growers have been able to create excellent genetic preserves, creating an opportunity to mix old-school Amsterdam gems with newer varieties from all over the world. The fact that a lot of Amsterdam growing is urban and done indoors means that many growers use hydroponic setups and mediums that are best suited for clones rather than seeds. While, on the surface, this may seem detrimental to seed production, it creates the need for preserves and nurseries that keep mother plants in abundance for cloning purposes. This opens the door for growers who would otherwise never think about breeding to tinker around and start creating new crosses of their own. The outcome is that Amsterdam is still—at least for the time being—the place to go for seeds and diverse genetics. ✨



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Photo shows 21 days from start

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The new Latch-Top 420 Jars from 420 Science are simply the best storage option available for someone looking to keep their quality buds fresh. Made of Italian Borosilicate glass, these jars feature a finely-crafted pewter medallion. The latch-top lid and O-Ring combo provide a hermetic seal that is guaranteed to lock in the freshness.



Autumn Photo: Scott D'Amico



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HIGH TIMES' first-ever Medical Cannabis Cup brings the ultimate marijuana competition to Northern California.



Vaporize it (and don't criticize it).

Patients sample several varieties of cannabis concentrate to find their favorites.



Joint relief.



Greenway Compassionate Relief's Cup-winning biscotti.

Legend has it that ever since all-American home-grown marijuana first started taking root in Northern California over 40 years ago, the region's most highly skilled cannabis cultivators and breeders have emerged from their gardens once a year in order to compete in underground harvest contests and determine who really grows the best bud around. Since 1987, we've been exporting this tradition to the one place on Earth pot-friendly enough to host the HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup in all its ganja glory, annually pitting Amsterdam's finest coffeeshops against one another as part of a now-global phenomenon that attracts stoners of every nation to the city of their nice dreams for the world's premier pot party.

That unparalleled event will always remain the Acapulco Gold standard of marijuana competi-

tions—including the 23rd annual incarnation of the HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup taking place this November. But given all the freedom enjoyed these days by California's legal medical-cannabis patients—let alone the plethora of choices they face when selecting their medicine from state-sanctioned dispensaries and collectives—we finally decided that the time was ripe to return the concept to its home turf.

Focusing on the needs of California's estimated 150,000 med-pot patients, the First Annual HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup in San Francisco featured a two-day cannabis and hemp expo that included cultivation seminars with HIGH TIMES editors Jorge Cervantes, Danny Danko and Nico Escondido; activism and legal sessions with leaders of the medical-marijuana movement and

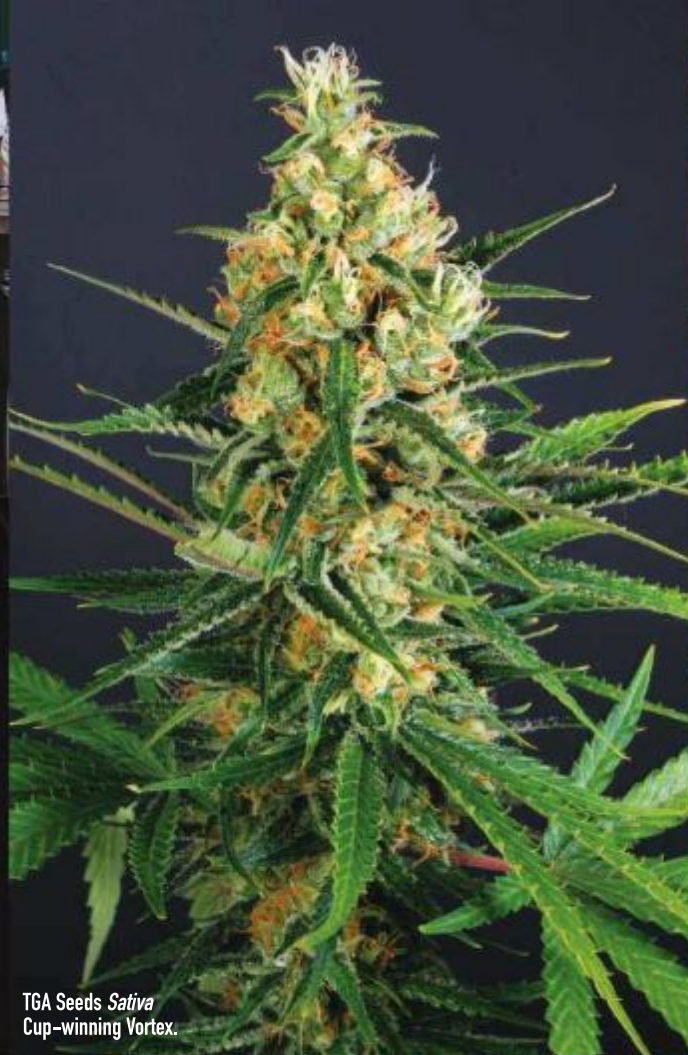
LOCHFOOT (2), BRIAN JAHN (1), DAN SKYE (6), DANNY DANKO (6)



The HIGH TIMES booth crew



Eagles of Death Metal take a bow.



TGA Seeds *Sativa* Cup-winning Vortex.



Head judge Jorge Cervantes, signing his book.



Colorado's Cheesecake Lady!



Sun'n'buds brought out the stoner girls.



Humboldt Patients Resource Clinic in action.



Miss HT 2007 finalist Jacque and HT reporter Bianca Barnhill.

treat

By David Bienenstock

major cannabis celebrities; seminars on how to open and operate your very own cannabusiness; information on the latest advances in marijuana-based medicine; an all-star Medical Cannabis Cup awards ceremony; and an unforgettable Saturday-night party that featured Lyrics Born, Eagles of Death Metal and other surprise musical guests.

Perhaps most importantly, we convened a handpicked panel of experts and tasked them with awarding prizes for the best and most medicinal *indicas*, *sativas*, concentrates and edibles entered by more than 50 of California's legally operating medical-marijuana dispensaries and collectives. In each category, we paired a local legend with one of HIGH TIMES' staff experts, while selecting *Marijuana Horticulture* author Jorge Cervantes to serve as head judge across the board.



Kenny Estes — the original Granddaddy Purp.

Dozens of jars awaiting *Indica* Cup judges.

Miss HT 2007 Sarah Newton.



HT Cultivation Editor Nico Escondido.



Danny Danko and Valerie Corral examining *sativas*.



Coded samples await Medical Cannabis Cup judges.



Nor Cal girls are hip!



Legal seminar (L to R): Keith Stroup, Chris Conrad, William Panzer, Robert Platshorn.

After receiving their samples a week in advance of the Cup—all carefully coded as part of our blind tasting process—the judges were asked to meet at Dennis Peron’s “Bud and Breakfast” (also known as the Castro Castle) the day before the expo began, and to bring with them a short list of their favorite entries for careful consideration by the full panel. At precisely 4:20 p.m., this illustrious group finally assembled at perhaps the greenest spot in all of San Francisco.

One of the co-authors of California’s groundbreaking voter initiative, Proposition 215—which, upon its passage in 1996, created the first statewide protections for medical-marijuana patients in the country—Dennis Peron has remained a consistent voice in the marijuana movement ever since, and his cannabis-friendly abode served as the ideal setting for our official judges’ dinner. And so, after many long days and nights of rigorous, independent testing, our two sets of experts finally met each other face to face to share hors d’oeuvres, light refreshments and their highly informed opinions on nearly 100 distinct varieties of cannabis medicine.

Fortunately, no single person had to judge it all. WAMM executive director Valerie Corral evaluated the *sativas*, cannabis-breeding legend

DJ Short handled the *indicas*, certified marijuana experts Chris Conrad and Mikki Norris examined the concentrates, and Chef Mike, the resident medical-marijuana chef on the *Cannabis Planet* TV show, put his well-seasoned pot palate to work on the marijuana-infused edibles.

As these judges paired off with their HIGH TIMES counterparts, literally comparing notes while debating the relative merits of each entry under consideration, Cervantes took his job as head judge extremely seriously, moving from concentrates to *sativas* to *indicas* and occasionally offering his own thoughts, while consistently helping each group move closer to consensus. Ultimately, the edibles judges (including HIGH TIMES managing editor Natasha Lewin) would unanimously agree on the biscotti from Greenway Compassionate Relief as their clear winner, and the concentrates would be decided in favor of Ingrid from the Leonard Moore Cooperative. Meanwhile, the *sativa* and *indica* judges (dealing with 34 and 42 total entries, respectively) opted for presenting

Jorge with a Top 5 list and letting him sort out the rest at his leisure over the next two days.

And so, while Jorge sequestered himself in HIGH TIMES’ temporary headquarters with the 10 best strains in the state, the show went on at an expo center called Terra on the outskirts of town. With more than 100 vendors and informational booths, a non-stop lineup of panels and seminars, plus a large outdoor area dedicated to Prop. 215-compliant patients, the HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup drew huge crowds and attracted a veritable Who’s Who of the medical-marijuana movement, including Steve DeAngelo from the Harborside Health Center; Debby Goldsberry from the Berkeley Patients Group; Keith Stroup, Paul Armentano and “Radical Russ” from NORML; federal medical-marijuana patient Irv Rosenfeld; Prop. 215 co-author William Panzer; medical-cannabis pioneer Dr. Frank Lucido; legendary ex-smuggler Robert “Black Tuna” Platshorn; the newly installed head of Students for Sensible Drug Policy, Aaron Houston; and representatives from both Americans for Safe Access and the upcoming California legalization initiative (see page 76).

By Sunday night, when the smoke had (largely) cleared, a standing-room-only crowd assembled to witness the presentation of the first-ever Medical Cannabis Cups. With all of the expert judges on hand to announce their final decisions, tensions ran

By Sunday night, when the smoke had (largely) cleared, a standing-room-only crowd assembled to witness the presentation of HIGH TIMES’ first-ever Medical Cannabis Cups.

high as months of preparation, a week of careful testing and two days of Medical Cannabis Cup history all finally came to a head. But before handing out the Cups, we paused to present a very special Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Lester Grinspoon for his long and highly distinguished career as a physician, professor, author, advocate and activist.

Although Dr. Grinspoon unfortunately couldn’t attend for health reasons, the 82-year-old elder statesman of this still-emerging movement addressed the crowd via a taped acceptance speech. In it, Dr. Grinspoon marveled at the progress that California has made in leading the country toward the ever-greater acceptance of medical marijuana and shared his hope that he would see outright legalization happening in his own lifetime. And, after spending the weekend at a public celebration of this once brutally repressed plant—held not in Amsterdam, but in our own country—everyone present had to agree that anything seemed possible, in the best possible way. ✨



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Sean Kush: as featured in the June 6, 2010 L.A Times.



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Cali Gold



Indica Cup

1st Place: Cali Gold (Mr. Natural Inc.)

THC: 18.39% / CBD: 0.43% / CBN: 0.88%
This all-organic, naturally grown super-hybrid took home first place in the very first HT *Indica* Cup on US soil, and deservedly so. A cross of OG Kush and Colombian Gold, Cali Gold carries the exceptional flavor and beautiful aroma of the OG, receiving a near-perfect score in these categories from the judges. The burn was above average and, under the loupe, Cali Gold exhibited nice trichome production and also scored high in the newly coined ROO category, a method of evaluation based on the ring of oil (hence, "ROO") that forms near the lit end of joints made from high-potency cannabis. Cali Gold's high ROO rating was later verified by the stunning lab reports that revealed it to be 18.4 percent THC!

True OG



2nd Place: True OG (Elemental Wellness)

THC: 15.19% / CBD: 0.31% / CBN: 0.65%
Strongly reminiscent of the Chemdog line (perhaps an OG #18), the True OG was an immediate Top 10 selection in the first round of sampling (out of some 40 *indicas*). Her hard, dense, well-cured nugs stood out, as did the pungent nose. Both her bouquet and taste earned bonus points with the judges, who frequently commented on this bud's ability to keep great flavor right through the end of the smoke. Lab results confirmed above-average potency and good medicinal value with 0.31 percent CBD. Grown indoors and hydroponically, the True OG responded as most OG varieties do in strong grow and nutrient programs—with their true potential fully unlocked!

Bubba Kush



3rd Place: Bubba Kush (Tehema Herbal Collective Inc.)

THC: 13.55% / CBD: 0.25% / CBN: 0.24%
Indica judge and legendary breeder DJ Short had this entry high on his list of favorites, and with good reason. Receiving excellent marks across the board, this Bubba Kush was very well grown, producing airy yet dense nuggets that had a piney, sage-like nose. When ground up, the bud produced an even more floral aroma as well as loads of powdery kief—undoubtedly a byproduct of the high resin content, which was clearly visible to the naked eye (and under the scope). But the crowning achievement of this bud was its impeccable cure, which not only created a perfect burn and smoke but a beautiful stone as well.

Vortex



Sativa Cup

1st Place: Vortex (Green Bicycles)

THC: 18.19% / CBD: 0.47% / CBN: 0.93%
This extraordinarily grown version of the TGA/Subcool Seeds strain, cultivated from seed by Green Bicycles, was "Clean Green Certified," meaning it was grown in compliance with the USDA's Organic Certification Program and other international guidelines for sustainable farming.

Obviously, the growers of this fine herb knew what they were doing, as our judges' notes indicate that it was well flushed and cured, burning to a clean white ash. Further proof that the cure was dead-on came in the form of the super-high CBN count, which can indicate the bud's age and shows that an herb wasn't rushed through the curing process. CBN is also an important medicinal cannabinoid.

A hybrid project geared specifically for the medical user created this strain, with its lineage coming by way of an Apollo 13 x Space Queen. As HIGH TIMES senior cultivation editor and *sativa* judge Danny Danko noted: "This is a true *sativa* in every way—tastes like Amsterdam, with a clear, bell-like high." And let's not forget her sweet flavor as well!

Candy Jack



2nd Place: Candy Jack (Green Door San Francisco)

THC: 15.98% / CBD: 0.29% / CBN: 0.88%
A tasty and pungent version of the Jack Herer line (a.k.a. Super Silver Haze), it's no wonder that this bud placed second in the *Sativa* Cup. Flavorful and with that signature sweet smell that gets the mouth watering, this Candy Jack burned very well and carried a mellow smoke with a strong high. Judges noted the quality of the entry buds: large and well-manicured colas, dense with light green leaves and lots of red hairs. HIGH TIMES staffers found this entry reminiscent of the Super Silver Haze/Jack Herer strain that was a two-time Cup champion in Amsterdam in the late '90s—only this version was a cut above!

Durban Poison



3rd Place: Durban Poison (Purple Lotus Patient Center)

THC: 17.06% / CBD: 0.36% / CBN: 0.89%
It was nice to see a Durban place in the *Sativa* Cup, as she is generally regarded as one of the few pure landrace *sativas* left on Earth. This variety, entered as Durban Poison (with a possible tinge of *indica* in her from earlier crossings), was still one of the most *sativa*-dominant herbs out of over 30 *sativa* entries. With a sweet and spicy flavor and a high that sent the heart racing, she exhibited strong influence over the judges, all of whom had her on their Top 5 lists. This version of Durban Poison also burned extremely well and had a very nice cure. With cannabinoid levels this high, it was no surprise that she turned out a winner.

CANDY JACK

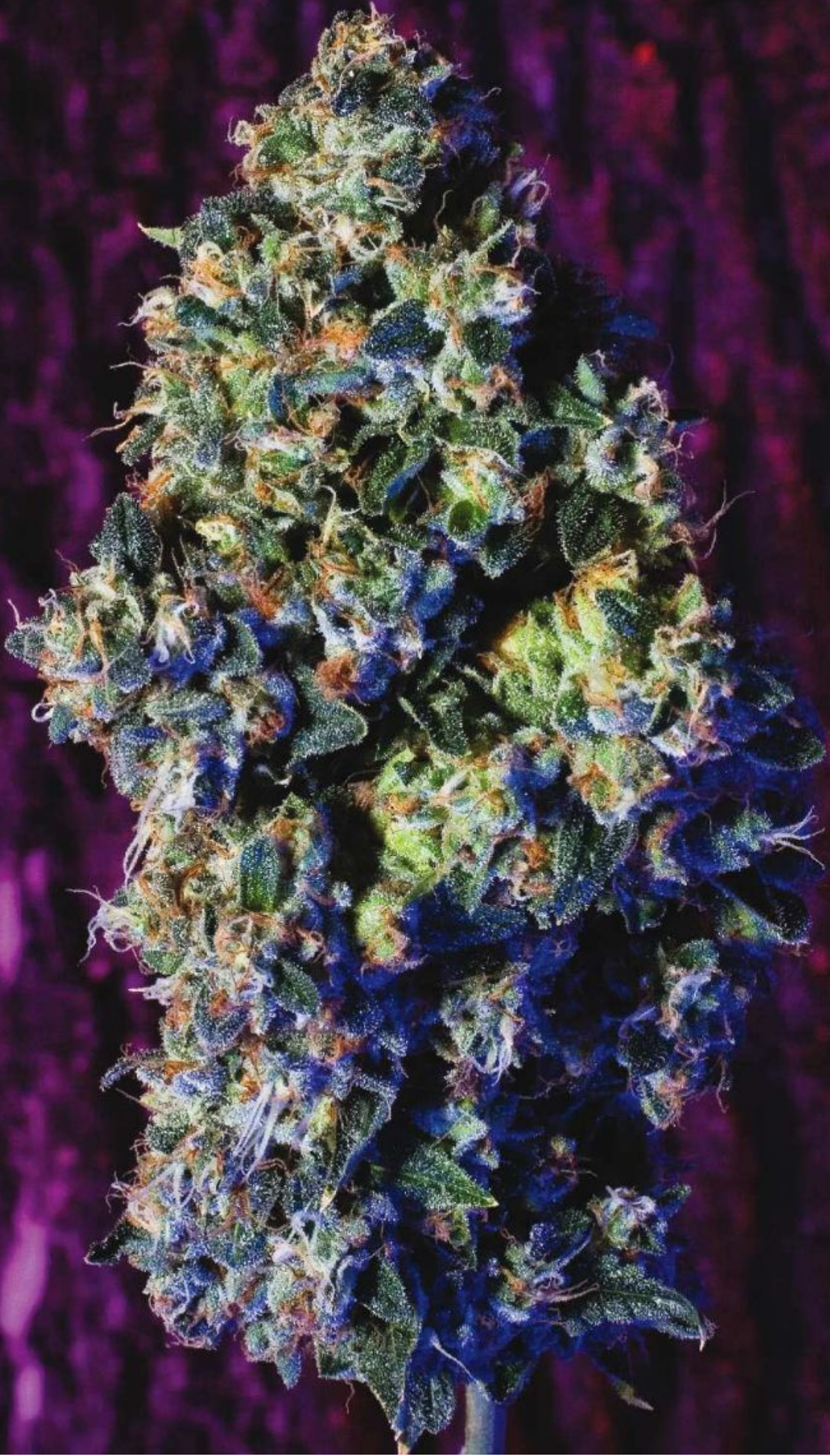


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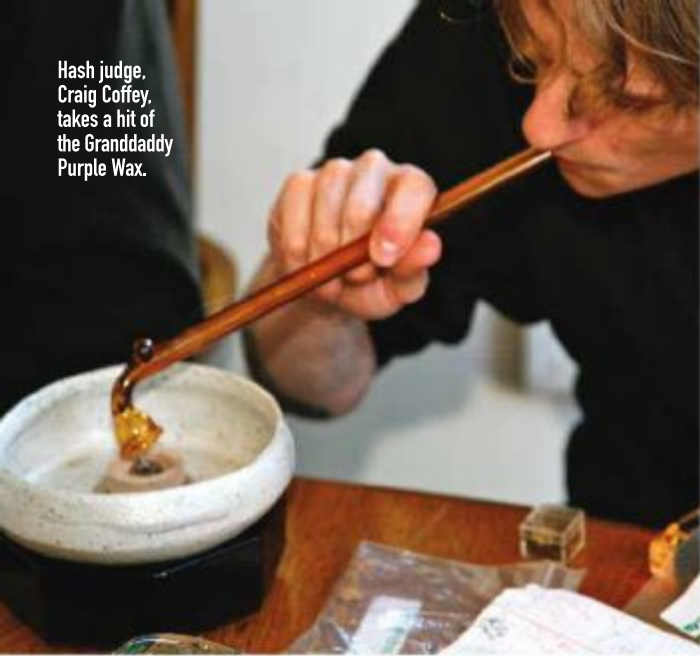
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Hash judge, Craig Coffey, takes a hit of the Granddaddy Purple Wax.



A hookah coal was employed for the final session of concentrate judging.



Full Melt

By Craig Coffey

Head judge, Jorge Cervantes, observes a burning hash sample.



If growing great cannabis is a science, then making great concentrates is an art, and it was a pleasure exploring all 16 works of art entered into the concentrate category of the HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup.

For our judging sessions, we primarily smoked with a red-hot hookah coal and a glass pipe. Small samples of the concentrate were dropped onto the hot coal and inhaled, a method that proved excellent for judging because you could clearly see how a sample burned and what it left behind after it was spent. Check out hightimes.com/fullmelt for more information on the hot-coal method for smoking hash.

1st Place: Ingrid

(Leonard Moore Cooperative)

THC: 45.45% / CBD: 0.89% / CBN: 1.66%

This concentrate was presented as an unpressed powder that was soft between the fingers and easily worked into a pliable ball. The hash was a pleasure to smoke, with a floral flavor and a great expansion sensation once it hit the lungs. This sample quickly boiled away and left nothing behind on the coal—a great sign for medical patients seeking the purest concentrate possible.



2nd Place: Herojuana

(Phillips Rx)

THC: 54.65% / CBD: 1.32% / CBN: 2.24%

This sample looked like a piece of caramel. When held up to the sun, light would pass through it like a piece of amber. When squeezed between the fingers, it would crumble into fragrant powder. And with a whopping THC/CBD content, it was powerful medicine as well.



3rd Place: Granddaddy Purple Wax

(7 Stars Holistic Healing Center)

THC: 59.98% / CBD: 2.35% / CBN: 1.26%

At room temperature, this concentrate was nearly impossible to handle, so we kept it in the freezer between sessions. The sticky brown mass exploded into a puff of white smoke upon hitting the coal, followed by a complete burn with nothing left behind at all. And at nearly 60 percent THC, a little certainly went a long way!

For a full list of entries in the HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup, please visit hightimes.com/2010medcupentries.

Scan this tag to see video of the 'hot-coal' hash smoking method.



Activist and author, Chris Conrad, takes an authoritative hit.





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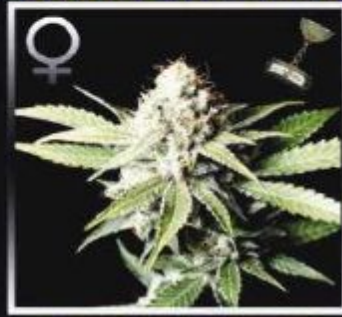
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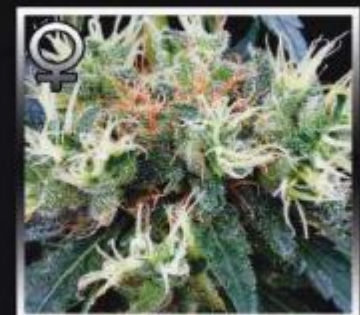
HAWAIIAN SNOW



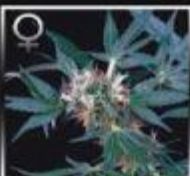
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A.M.S



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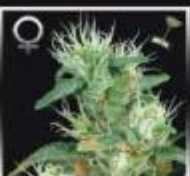
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Medical Cannabis Cup samples dehydrate in "weigh boats" prior to testing.



Steep Hill co-founder David Lampach in front of the lab's gas chromatograph-mass spectrometer.



Lab director Josh Werzer at the "laboratory inventory management system" station, retrieving results.



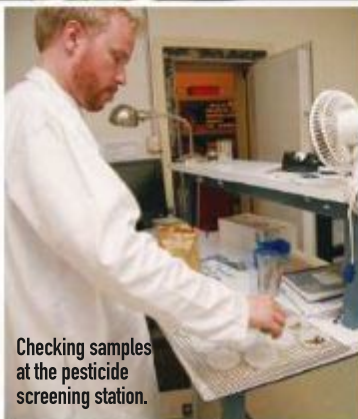
Cannabis, of course, is a complicated plant with a myriad of active compounds that affect the human body and mind in complex ways we're only beginning to understand—so at this point, mere scientific data can't be expected to replace the (admittedly subjective) experience of actual humans, like our official expert judges. Still, access to accurate information on THC and CBD levels offers medical patients an excellent baseline when selecting strains that will work best for their particular ailments.

LAB-TESTED

Oakland's Steep Hill Laboratories tested every HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup entry for potency as part of its ongoing mission to help the medical-marijuana industry's own efforts to regulate the safety and efficacy of its offerings.

Since opening its doors in 2008, Steep Hill Laboratories has scientifically tested more than 12,000 distinct cannabis samples in order to determine their exact percentage of THC, CBD and CBN (the best-known cannabinoids), while simultaneously ensuring that each new batch of medical marijuana is free of mold, pesticides and other potentially dangerous contaminants. Already working with over 50 different medical-marijuana providers across the state of California, this dedicated lab is devoted to taking a leading role in the effort to ensure a safe supply of medicinal-grade cannabis to patients, while offering legally operating dispensaries and collectives a way to self-regulate the quality (and potency) of their products in an industry still largely free of oversight when it comes to cultivation practices.

To this end, Steep Hill employs both a gas-chromatography (GS) machine and a high-performance-liquid chromatography (HPLC) machine to separate each cannabis sample into its various compounds, followed by a mass spectrometer to test for potency. Dispensaries and collectives must provide the lab with a two-gram sample for testing and are notified immediately if a new batch registers unsafe levels of contaminants, so they can remove it from the supply line before it reaches patients. Participating providers also receive information on potency quickly enough that Oakland's Harborside Health Center—a leading dispensary with branches in both Oakland and San Jose—can label all its medicinal offerings with exact information on THC and CBD levels at the point of purchase.



Checking samples at the pesticide screening station.



Samples and dilutions are prepared for analysis by the GCMS.

According to Steep Hill, entries at the Medical Cannabis Cup averaged 15 to 16 percent THC, whereas the buds that the lab normally tests average from 10 to 12 percent.

the highest levels, although the Cup winners in both the *indica* and *sativa* categories (Cali Gold and Vortex, respectively) tested above 18 percent THC, while the Cup-winning concentrate clocked in at a whopping 45.5 percent.

"We were blown away by the support from patients and the industry for what we've created here in California," said Addison De Moura, a former cannabis grower and provider who founded Steep Hill along with partner David Lampach. "It was a privilege to be part of the first-ever HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup—everyone's response was positive, and we can't wait for next year!" ✨

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California's cannabis revolution is on the ballot this November, but are voters really ready to legalize it?

Tea Party

By David Bienenstock

Richard Lee reaches out to tighten the cap on a small spray bottle of light brown liquid as he rolls through one of his thriving nurseries. These days, he may be the most high-profile marijuana entrepreneur in America, but not even the smallest detail of life in Oaksterdam escapes his attention. Of course, Lee's not only the mythical town's unofficial mayor; he's the founding father of a nine-block stretch of Broadway in Oakland that's now known to pot smokers worldwide as the home of his cannabusinesses, including the three-story, 30,000-square-foot main campus of Oaksterdam University, two coffeeshops, a medical-marijuana dispensary, a gift shop, a student union and his political headquarters—all of which have helped transform the area from a scene of urban blight into a "green oasis" of commercial viability and community support.

A medical-marijuana user since 1990—when he slipped on a catwalk and broke his back while working as a lighting technician for Aerosmith—Lee now wants to take the fight for cannabis freedom to its logical conclusion: total legalization for all adults. And he's put at least \$1.4 million of his own money where his mouth is, spearheading and financing Proposition 19, the Regulate, Control and Tax Cannabis Act of 2010, which will appear on this November's statewide ballot alongside the candidates for governor and attorney general.

To win, Lee will have to raise a lot more cash, coordinate the kind of grassroots movement required to get out the vote, and—perhaps most importantly—identify precisely the right messaging required to convince the electorate that it's time to make history. He expected (and received) early opposition to this effort from the usual suspects with their typically self-serving objections, including the California Police Chiefs Association, which benefits financially from marijuana-related casework and asset seizures. But the pot impresario admits to being a bit blindsided by some longtime marijuana activists—and even growers—who've openly urged others to vote no on the initiative.

Chief among them is Dennis Peron, who co-founded the first medical-marijuana "buyers' club" in the US and later co-authored Proposition 215, which made California the first state to legalize medical marijuana in 1996. Once an esteemed member of the Oaksterdam University faculty, Peron left the organization and even began picketing Lee's Blue Sky coffeeshop every week in protest of the initiative, as well as any other plan that would give the government undue control over marijuana.

In a September 2009 statement entitled "Why I Oppose the 'Tax & Regulate' Marijuana Initiative," Peron pointed to three "fatal flaws" in the language of the statute, calling the one-ounce limit too small (likening it to being able to have only one or two bottles of wine at a given time); condemning large excise taxes on marijuana as an "unfair" way to maintain its status as "the most expensive, blatantly overpriced product on the market"; and sounding an alarm over the inclusion of harsh new penalties for supplying marijuana to minors—even to someone over 18 but under 21.

In the initiative's own words: "Every person 21 years of age or over who knowingly furnishes, administers or gives, or offers to furnish, administer or give, any marijuana to a person aged 18 years or older, but younger than 21 years of age, shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for a period of up to six months and be fined up to \$1,000 for each offense."

Lee counters that the offending language is meant to make the initiative palatable to a skeptical public, that the penalties for pot would be the same as for alcohol, and that extending legalization to 18-year-olds loses too many votes. He calls the public feud with Peron a serious bummer. "He's one of my heroes, who I modeled a lot of my activism off of, but to hear him say, 'I don't want to pay any taxes on marijuana—it should be peace and love and free





Richard Lee, the pot entrepreneur behind Oaksterdam University, has built a professional political campaign team ready to work around the clock to legalize marijuana.



buds for everybody' ... that's not realistic."

What is realistic, according to Lee, is a legalization plan that offers "local control" over implementation. Which means the tax-and-regulate initiative allows local communities to permit commercial cultivation and sales and reap the related tax benefits, but doesn't mandate that they do so. In fact, so long as federal law continues to outlaw marijuana in all its forms, Lee believes that any initiative requiring state and local authorities to defy the Feds will be dead on arrival. All of which means that while every adult 21 years of age or older in California would have the right to possess up to an ounce of cannabis, and also cultivate up to 25 square feet per private residence for personal use anywhere in the state, the initiative still leaves the door open for "dry counties" much like those that currently exist for alcohol, where all sales would be banned.

In the meantime, it's an open question exactly how the Justice Department and the DEA

'We'll just have to wait and see what happens with the Feds, but I can't imagine that Obama has the time and political capital to waste on this.'—Richard Lee

would respond to recreational legalization in the world's eighth-largest economy. Will they maintain the "states' rights" approach they've mostly adopted toward medical marijuana, or open the door to a new era of raids, arrests and open civil disobedience like the one that followed the passage of Prop. 215?

"We'll just have to wait and see what happens with the Feds," Lee admits, "but I can't imagine Obama has the time and political capital to waste on this."

The good news is that local control not only allows the most conservative communities to drag their feet; it also empowers the most far-sighted and opportunistic to lead the way. And it's no coincidence that Oakland seems poised to do just that. The city fathers got their first real taste of the action in 2009, when the Lee-backed Ballot Measure F passed with 80 percent support, creating a special business-tax rate of 1.8 percent for medical-marijuana sales—a first-of-its kind revenue stream that the mayor of Oaksterdam credits with greatly increasing the local government's interest in promoting the industry.

At best, electoral victory in November will ignite a "race to the top," where pot-progressive communities across California compete and innovate in order to attract the green jobs and tax dollars that will inevitably result from moving marijuana out of the black market. But if American history—recent or otherwise—teaches us anything, it's that it's not all

ROBYN TWOMEY





Richard Lee's Oaksterdam University has recently located to this three-story, 30,000 square-foot building in downtown Oakland.



Campaign headquarters.



Anna Hamilton hosts "Rant and Rave" on KMUD radio in Humboldt County.

smiles and sunshine when the invisible hand of the market gets unleashed and starts reaching into your pocket.

The Oakland City Council, which now unanimously supports legalization, has lately been investigating licensed cannabis cultivation as a means of closing the city's \$42 million budget shortfall, including a plan to authorize just four industrial-scale indoor facilities, one of which would reportedly be up to 100,000 square feet in size and capable of harvesting and processing 58 pounds per day—every day. Numbers like that indicate Oakland's clear interest in growing cannabis for far more than local consumption.

While the Oaksterdam Empire hopes to secure one of those lucrative cultivation licenses for its own use, Lee nonetheless favors a plan that would allow more and smaller growers to make a living. Meanwhile, after a vote, over 100 employees of Oaksterdam University and related businesses (including Lee) recently joined the United Food and Commercial Workers union, a practice that would presumably extend to Oaksterdam's future cultivation plans. Still, the "head honcho" fears that communities already hesitant to regulate marijuana may prefer to deal with a handful of large, established entities rather than trying to sensibly oversee what exists now: an unaffiliated, unregulated hodgepodge of many smaller, difficult-to-quantify growers.

"I hate that trend," Lee says with obvious sincerity. "That's what we're seeing in Oakland, and while I don't mind there being a big facility, it's the idea of having *only* two or three big ones that I don't like."

Ultimately, if marijuana goes the way of American-style free-market capitalism, larger and larger fish—taking advantage of economies of scale and political clout never before seen—will keep gobbling up bigger and bigger pieces of the pot pie, until the cannabis industry from seed to stash looks just like every other segment of an agricultural system dominated by large, powerful business interests. And even if the existing federal ban on marijuana—which is extremely unlikely to be lifted in the near future—keeps multinational corporations like Phillip Morris and Monsanto out of the pot fields for the time being,

Ideas long considered pot-fueled 'pipe dreams' soon began to look more and more like the most sensible way to move forward.

anyone who's paying attention already sees that the "American family farmers" in need of Willie Nelson's support may soon include those who grow his favorite green herb.

"If it goes totally legal, the mom-and-pop growers are going to be a thing of the past," says Dale Gieringer, a co-author of Prop. 215 and the state coordinator of California NORML since 1987, who now supports Prop 19 despite initial reservations. "The price will go way down, and it ought to go way down—but it will take awhile."

Gieringer credits the export market for California cannabis across state lines as the main thing propping up pot prices as medical-marijuana laws continue to make cultivation less risky, thereby removing at least part of what consumers have come to know as the "prohibition tax." Still, since the legalization of medical marijuana, indoor prices in California have slid noticeably, while top-quality outdoor now sells for under \$2,000 per pound wholesale—less than half of what the same crop would have commanded 15 years ago. According to Richard Lee, if the initiative passes, retail prices should eventually reach \$100 per ounce, including all taxes.

So where does that leave the legendary growers of Northern California's famed Emerald Triangle? In a word: *panicked*.

Up in Humboldt County, local musician, activist and KMUD radio host Anna Hamilton read the writing on the wall and decided to get proactive. Her first foray into pot politics came about five years ago, when she used her radio show to help spark a public debate about the rash of diesel spills caused by unsafe, illegal, indoor grow ops powered by generators in the remote hills. Initially, Hamil-

ton felt considerable fear about going public with a complaint about marijuana growing—a major taboo among those living behind "the Redwood Curtain"—but once the topic was broached, the locals began to talk among themselves about solutions. The result was a dramatic reduction in diesel spills, without any new laws or regulatory oversight other than an altered sense of what was acceptable behavior in the community.

KMUD first won the enduring affection of local growers via participation in the Civil Liberties Monitoring Project, which was formed in 1983 (the same year as the federal government's Campaign Against Marijuana Planting) to curtail civil-rights abuses in the Emerald Triangle, most famously by announcing the arrival and likely destination of anti-marijuana helicopters over the airwaves. To Hamilton, those earliest incursions by heavily armed Vietnam vets and CAMP fanatics—flying their choppers low enough over the land to literally scare livestock to death—will always represent the truest and most brutal face of the War on Marijuana.

Now she sees a far more existential threat on the horizon, one with the potential to sink not only the "big-time growers," but also the lower middle class and working poor who tend smaller gardens just to get by—not to mention all of the unrelated businesses and individuals that have come to rely on marijuana money in a little corner of the world where cannabis production represents the No. 1 economic activity. If legalization pulls that rug out from under Humboldt County—particularly in this economy—pretty soon property values could tank, schools and hospitals could lose their funding, and



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Tea Party

In Oaksterdam's cannabis nursery, medical marijuana plants await a vote in November that could profoundly alter their legal status



'Growers who are against legalization are harvesting bad karma. When somebody else gets busted, that's the subsidy that keeps prices high.'—Richard Lee

the whole fabric of society could start to unravel.

When confronting these harsh realities as an individual commercial farmer, the only logical response is to plant twice as much of any crop to help make up for the drop in prices. Based on local gossip, as well as the sheer number of trucks that have been spotted hauling 24-pallet loads of soil along Highway 101, it looks like many local growers have indeed decided to "double down," adopting a strategy that, unfortunately, when writ large, will only serve (in Hamilton's own words) to "drive the price into the toilet."

And so she realized that the cannabis cultivators of Northern California must either grow together or fall apart. Following months of speaking with friends, colleagues, neighbors and strangers—not to mention repeatedly cold-calling every government worker listed in the blue section of the phone book—Hamilton organized a public forum last March called "What's After Pot?" that brought together elected officials, business leaders, cannabis growers, medical-marijuana patients and providers, local law enforcement and other interested parties for a no-holds-barred discussion about how Humboldt County might not only survive legalization, but learn to thrive because of it.

Close to 200 people showed up for a truly historic evening that garnered considerable national press coverage but, more importantly, started the locals talking again about their own mutual best interests. The crystallizing moment came when Tony Smithers, the executive director of the Humboldt County Convention and Visitors Bureau, acknowledged that he fully intends to promote the region as a Mecca for marijuana tourists just as soon as the law allows.

"It was a shock," Hamilton admits. "Everybody went from hush-hush to 'Well, let's just paint the whole thing purple!'"

Soon, ideas long considered pot-fueled "pipe dreams" began to look more and more like the most sensible way to move forward. Noting that their neighbors in Napa Valley produce only four percent of California's wine but maintain a world-wide reputation and a thriving, vineyard-based tourism industry, those who have grown accustomed to hiding out and laying low actually started debating the relative merits of branding their bud, forming growers' collectives, and creating the kind of progressive cultivation regulations that would protect the small-scale, outdoor, organic family farms that made Humboldt-grown grass famous in the first place.

Perhaps the greatest promise lies in plans to offer attractions like a marijuana museum and education center, "bud and breakfasts," farmers' markets, guided tours of the fields at pot-growing "dude ranches," high-end cannabis-friendly healing centers and yoga retreats, and other as-yet-unimagined businesses catering to the kind of travelers who will come to sample the legendary local produce, then stay for the redwoods, beaches, restaurants, fishing, hiking, bird-watching and lively cultural scene.

In an ironic twist, marijuana tourism could bring back the far mellower vibe that pervaded the Emerald Triangle when the back-to-the-landers first arrived from San Francisco in the late '60s as flower-power refugees and started growing pot up in the hills for their own heads, and to subsidize their homesteads. Before the government's paramilitary raids terrorized an entire generation of local youth, and before the modern-day gold rush that prohibition spawned brought in an era of big money, energy-intensive indoor "gardens" and unfriendly neighbors, this really was a kind of pot paradise—and maybe, just maybe, it could be again.

As for the initiative, Hamilton calls it "the most reasonable thing" she's ever read, despite reservations about the new sentencing guidelines for minors. Still, while she wishes legalization were just a couple of years off so her community would have more time to prepare, "it's a good thing someone like Richard Lee is doing this, because it could be a whole lot worse."

So how do you vote when the issue at stake pits your own (and your neighbors') economic interests against the continuing human misery that is the status quo?

"Growers who are against legalization are harvesting bad karma," Richard Lee says flatly. "When somebody else gets busted, that's the subsidy that keeps prices high—that and the violence down in Mexico."

Anna Hamilton recommends that the truly torn admit they have a conflict of interest and recuse themselves from the decision by declining to vote on Prop. 19 entirely. But don't skip the races at the top of the ticket, as you'll have the chance to vote against Los Angeles District Attorney Steve Cooley, the Republican candidate for attorney general, who is running on a platform that includes banning *all* sales of *medical* marijuana anywhere in the state.

So while it's tempting to think that the amazing recent gains in common sense when it comes to marijuana—at least in California—are part of an inevitable march toward rationality, compassion and (ultimately) freedom, the very existence of Steve Cooley reminds us that reactionary forces will never give up their inexplicable hatred and intractable misunderstanding of this most beneficial plant.

In 1972, when the baby boomers first came of age and *everybody* smoked pot, a ballot initiative—unrelated to the current one, but also called Prop. 19—proposed a statute ensuring that "no person eighteen years or older shall be punished criminally or denied any right or privilege because of his planting, cultivating, harvesting, drying, processing, otherwise preparing, transporting, possessing or using marijuana."

Only 35 percent of Californians voted yes.

A lot has changed in the last 40 years, but certainly not everything. In a sane world, the challenge facing the professional political consultants working to pass Prop. 19 would be laughably easy, literally the stuff of farce. After all, in a society that not only allows legal alcohol and tobacco but cheers for a Jack Daniels-sponsored NASCAR team and sells candy cigarettes to children, convincing voters that maybe it's time to stop arresting their fellow citizens for growing a harmless plant—especially when we're all going broke—should be a pretty easy sell.

The latest opinion polls estimate public support at around 50 percent, with just a few months to go before Election Day. But the only poll that really matters takes place on November 2. Check out taxcannabis.org for more information about the initiative, including how you can help legalize marijuana in California once and for all! ✨



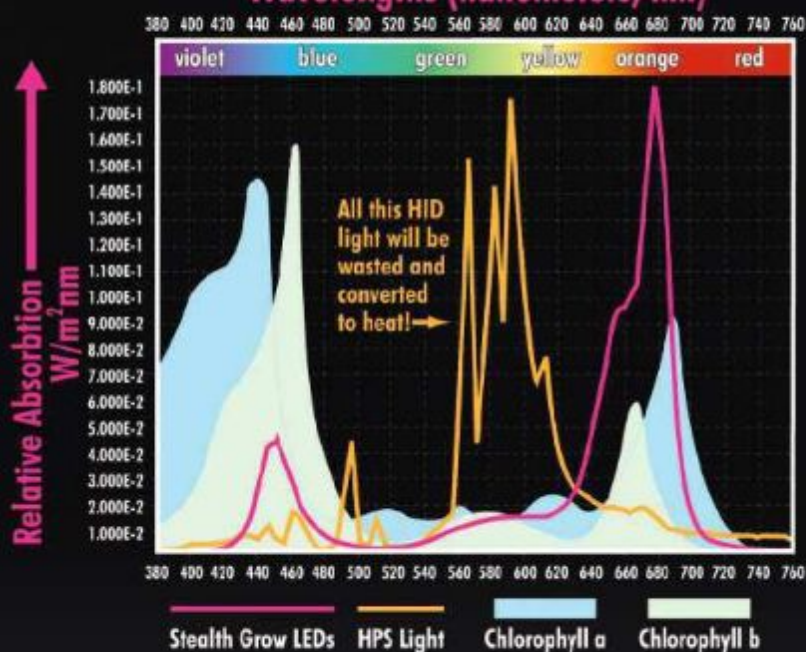
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PATENT PENDING

Gary Johnson proposed legalizing marijuana in New Mexico in 1999, while he was still the governor.



BIG J ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL.

THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW WITH GARY JOHNSON. BY DAVID BIENENSTOCK

When Gary Johnson first proposed legalizing marijuana in 1999, shortly after winning his second term as governor of New Mexico, he recognized in advance that taking such a principled and common-sense stand would result in his total marginalization from mainstream national politics, at least in the short term.

More than a decade later, he's decided not only that the moment's right to return to the political arena, but that this time around, the very same issue just might prove a winner. After all, the latest polling shows that well over 40 percent of American voters support marijuana legalization, with the needle still moving in the right direction, and yet no national politician has ever really tried to ride that green wave into high office. Until now.

With all due respect—and a great deal of respect is due—to Representatives Barney Frank, Ron Paul and Dennis Kucinich, their unequivocal support of marijuana-law reform didn't get them elected and doesn't keep them in office. And while there's certainly a lot more to Gary Johnson, both as a person and a politician, than this one issue, it *is* the thing he's best known for, as well as the single issue capable of—forgive the pun—igniting his nascent 2012 presidential campaign, taking him from principled fringe candidate to potential dark horse.

"I choose not to smoke marijuana, but you know what I thought when I smoked it the first time? The government lied," Johnson told Comedy Central's Stephen Colbert during a recent appearance clearly aimed at raising his name recognition among *The Colbert Report's* politically-minded stoner demographic. "I just think the government should tell the truth."

A consistent, reasonable voice in support of small government, low taxes and personal liberty, Johnson seems to match the national mood. Still, most political pundits would put his chances

of reaching the White House on a "Legalize it!" platform somewhere between slim and none. Then again, it wouldn't be the first time that Johnson came out of nowhere to disprove the "experts" and win an election.

Johnson was a political unknown when he ran for governor the first time in 1994, promising to bring a "common-sense business approach to politics." Prior to seeking office, he had founded and operated his own business—which eventually employed over a thousand people—while pursuing passions that included ski racing, competing in triathlons and smoking marijuana a couple of times a week.

Johnson won't get "pinned down" on exactly when he quit smoking herb, but he was certainly a personal and professional success long before he ever stopped puffing. In fact, there's been some speculation that Big J Construction was named in honor of one of its owner's favorite pastimes, although he denies the rumor.

Regardless, while Johnson may have refrained from using the L-word until after New Mexico's term-limits law made him a lame-duck governor, he hasn't looked back—or backed down—since then. Even when discussing his own cannabis use, he never apologizes or feigns a tale of sin and redemption. Instead, his version of "hitting rock bottom" involves logging a slightly slower time on a practice run after smoking a joint on the chairlift while training as a competitive skier.

As a member of the board of directors of Students for Sensible Drug Policy, Johnson continues to lend his name and reputation to an emerging student revolution in opposition to the War on Drugs. And while winning the Republican nomination in 2012—never mind the presidency—remains an incredible long shot, simply having his voice as part of the national conversation may help pull the rug out from under marijuana prohibition once and for all.

For a preview of how Johnson would approach the issue during a televised debate with his Republican primary opponents, witness this exchange from a recent appearance with Sean Hannity on Fox News:

JOHNSON: I find it funny that Republicans would talk about the fact that this country stands for freedom, this country stands for liberty and the personal responsibility that goes along with that, but not when it comes to marijuana. And, Sean, if the government made drinking beer illegal tomorrow, would you continue to drink beer or would you stop drinking beer?

HANNITY: I always obey the law

JOHNSON: But you would work to change that law

HANNITY: I drink—I'm a lightweight, I don't drink a lot. But you can drink alcohol, a beer, two beers, a glass of wine, two glasses of wine, and you're not impaired. If you smoke marijuana, you are impaired.

JOHNSON: I would disagree. In my experience, I would disagree. Denver voted to decriminalize the use of marijuana on a campaign based on marijuana being safer than alcohol, so I guess that got put to the test with a campaign. And as you're aware, Massachusetts voted to decriminalize marijuana this last general election 65-35. And to my knowledge, no incidents. Nothing.

Returning his pro-legalization message to a decidedly more receptive media outlet, Johnson was kind enough to sit down at the HIGH TIMES booth during the THC Expose in Los Angeles for an interview just weeks before he officially declared his candidacy for president.

When did you first personally conclude that the legalization of marijuana is a good idea?

It would have been back in 1999. I wanted to take a hard look at the War on Drugs, and as part of that, I wanted to examine legalization as a potential alternative to what we were doing. Before that, I had no idea of the compelling argument that existed.

So you went into this with an open mind?

I really did. But I had to start with the perception that the government was putting out—that Holland had such terrible drug use and abuse, and that their crime was through the roof. So I wondered: How is that explainable, and should we really legalize if this is their experience? And I came to find out that what the government was saying about Holland was a lie.

And to whom would you attribute that lie?

[Former Clinton administration Drug Czar] Barry McCaffrey, for example—he used the argument that Holland was a terrible place. And you know that is not the case. So I did engage in that argument with a lot of the drug-enforcement people that initially came out to bash me.

Do you think that was a misconception the government truly believed, or were they disseminating what they knew to be false statements?

Well, it seems to me that the head of the Office of National Drug Control Policy ought to know better. I can't say what their motives were—all I can say is what was actually coming out of their mouths.

Is this something that you feel your fellow Republicans should embrace as a personal-liberty issue or a small-government issue?

Yes. And on top of that, it's a pocketbook issue—90 percent of the drug problem is prohibition-related, and yet half of what we're spending on the courts and prisons is drug-related. We're arresting 1.8 million people a year, and what are we getting for it? What is the result? There is no decrease in use. It's just really insane. And I think a lot of the people opposed to legalizing marijuana are opposed to it because they simply haven't tried it.

How about you—still smoking?

I choose not to, and I haven't had a drink of alcohol in 23 years. But I will just echo what everybody reading this already knows, which is that marijuana is safer than alcohol.

And is it safe to say that you're a supporter of the tax-and-regulate voter initiative in California?

Yeah, I support the movement and have for a long time. The idea of taxing and regulating will make California a better place and a good example for the rest of the nation.

What dangers do you see in legalization? What could go wrong?

Government overregulation of what should be the absolute right to put into our bodies whatever we want, as long as it isn't going to cause harm to anybody else.

Arnold Schwarzenegger can't run again, so if the legalization initiative does pass in November, a new governor will have to figure out how to deal with it. As a former governor, what advice would you offer?

Johnson has likely never been higher than when he climbed Mount Everest—with a broken leg no less!



'A lot of the people opposed to legalizing marijuana simply haven't tried it'

When I was still in office, I would often be criticized by people claiming that, "if we legalize marijuana like Governor Johnson wants to, New Mexico will become a Mecca for pot smokers." And I would always joke and say, "You mean millions of doctors, lawyers, business owners, entrepreneurs, authors and musicians are going to move to New Mexico because of legalization? Gee, that's going to be really terrible!" And I think it could actually have that kind of impact on the state of California.

What protections would you like to see in place for people who are existing growers of marijuana? Do you think it's important to protect their jobs and their livelihoods as we move toward legalization?

No, I don't—I'm a free-market guy, so legalize it and let the markets prevail. Those that have been growing it will have a head start, and it certainly would be tough to play catch-up in a market that individuals have a lot of expertise in.

How would you rate the Obama administration in dealing with this issue and the War on Drugs in general?

The dialogue seems to be a little bit better—but on the other hand, maybe the rhetoric isn't matching up to the actions.

As the former governor of a border state, what effect do you think legalization would have on the Mexican drug cartels, particularly the violence along the borders and in those communities?

I realize that you're serving me up a gigantic softball, but the Mexican drug cartels make 70 percent of their profits off of marijuana. Legalize pot and you're going to do away

with a lot of prohibition-related border violence. Basically, these are business disputes played out with guns rather than in the courts.

Do you think citizens who still support the prohibition of marijuana are willing to suffer these secondary costs, or are they unaware of the real price of this policy?

I really think that you can attribute all of this to unawareness—I don't want to say "lack of education" so much as just listening to government dogma for the last 50 years. It has a way of actually having an impact on the way people think.

How often do you meet prominent people who say, "I agree with you 100 percent about legalizing pot, but I can't say anything"? Is that still a common phenomenon?

Yeah, it is—not so much prominent individuals as politicians, then and now. That's the comment I get from politicians to this very day.

Do you think that when public opinion changes enough, they will move with those prevailing winds?

Of course.

Well, I ask that because there's a well-established and powerful status quo that benefits from the prohibition of marijuana and wants it to continue, despite the costs.

I am going to argue that, in this next election, the sentiment is to vote them out—Republicans, Democrats, whatever. Which means that when marijuana legalization reaches the tipping point, which I think it's actually close to doing, the politicians that have opposed it are not going to be in office. ✨



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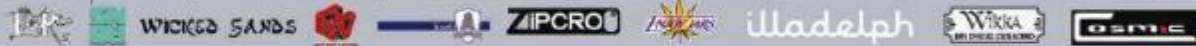
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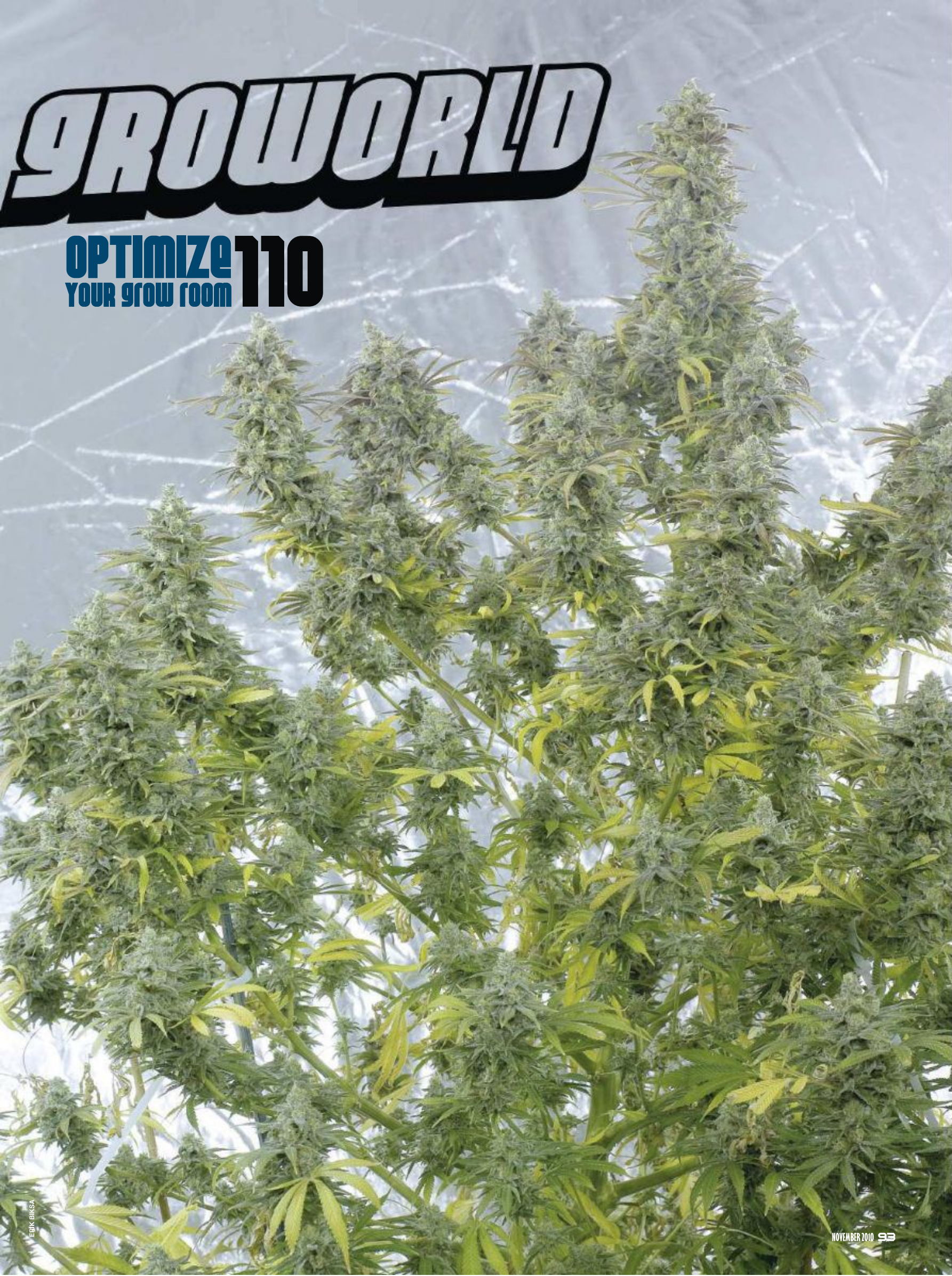
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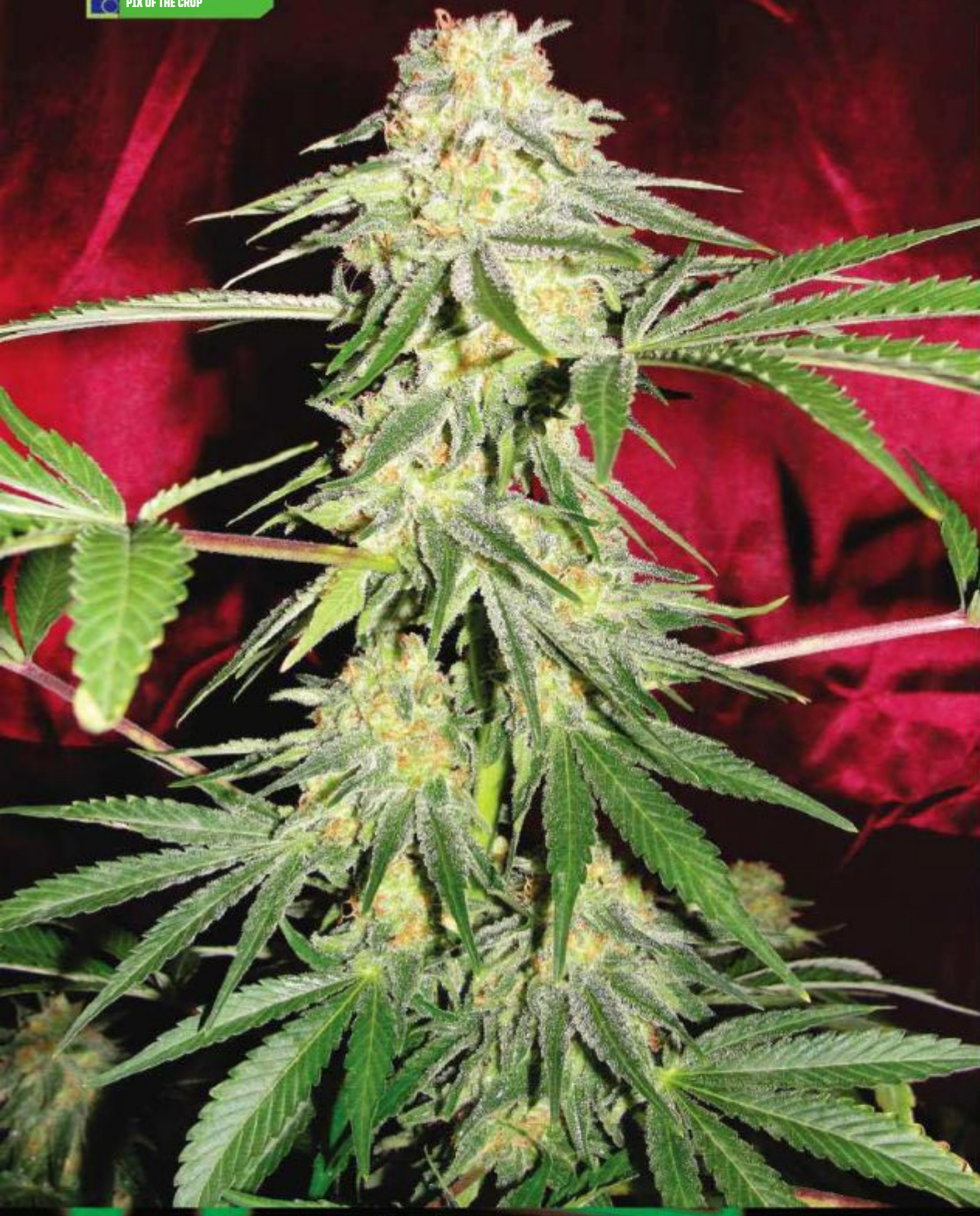


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GLISTENING GANJA (left)

This is my Hindu Skunk swelling, just days away from harvest. Hope!!!!
—Bonar, Le Grand, CA



FLYING HIGH (above)

This Jack the Ripper plant was grown in El Dorado County, in a paddock that was once used for horses. The elevation is about 2,000 feet. This strain is one of the latest finishers, but well worth it.
—Tropicaldrifter



KUSHY JEWEL (above)

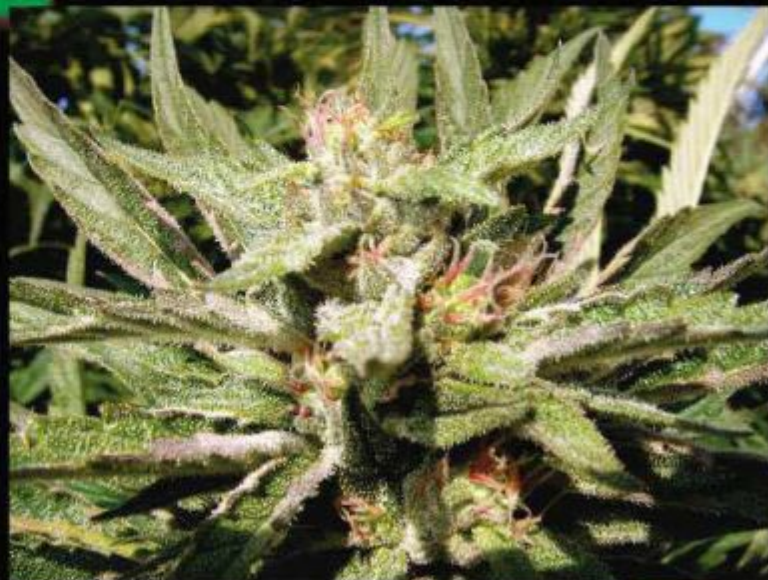
Here's a taste of some Purple Kush.—Saskatoon, SK

CLEAR HEADED (below left)

Check out this mixed system: LED lights and fluorescents. Things turned out well!!—The Turtle

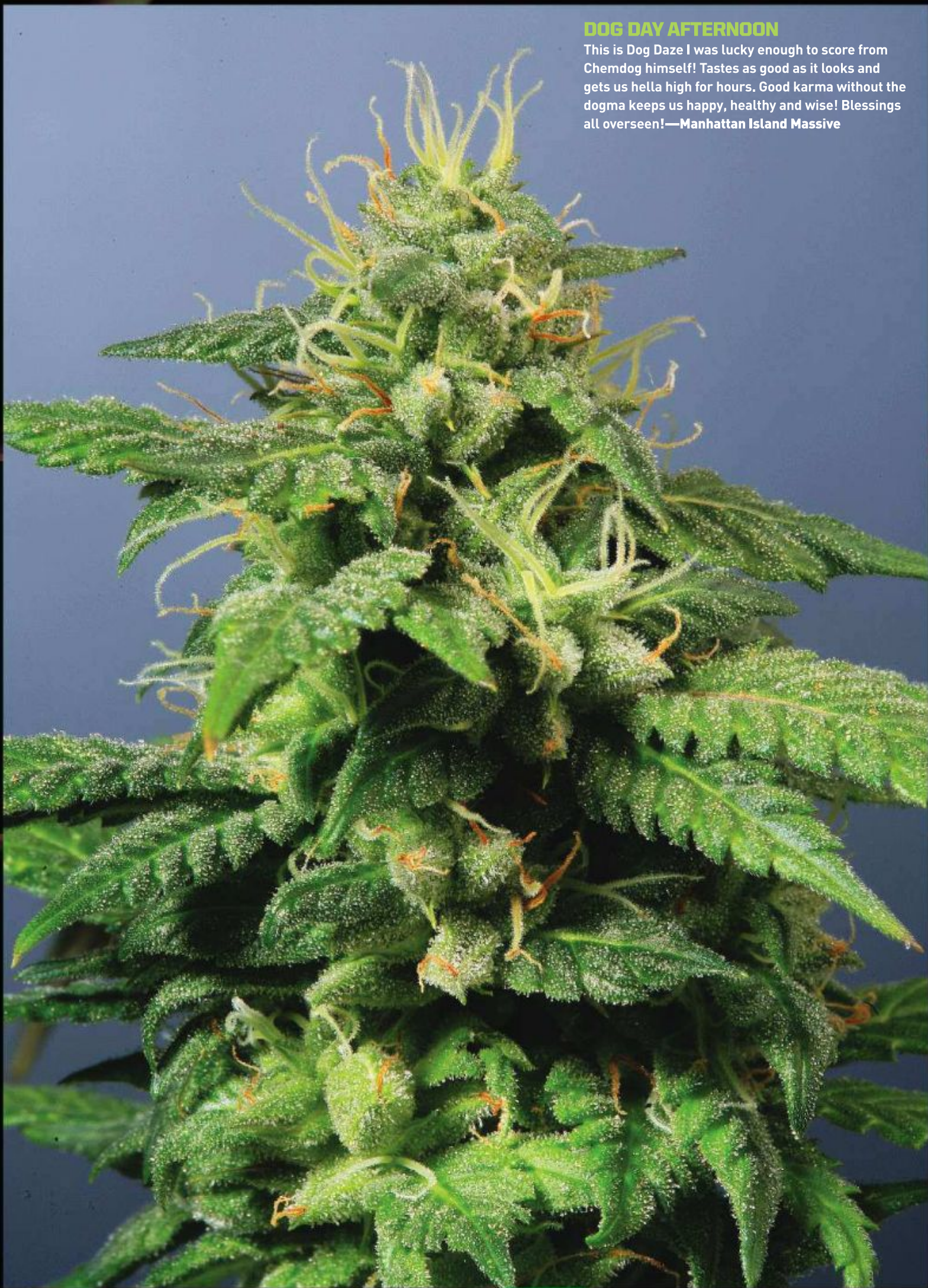
STINKY PINKY (below)

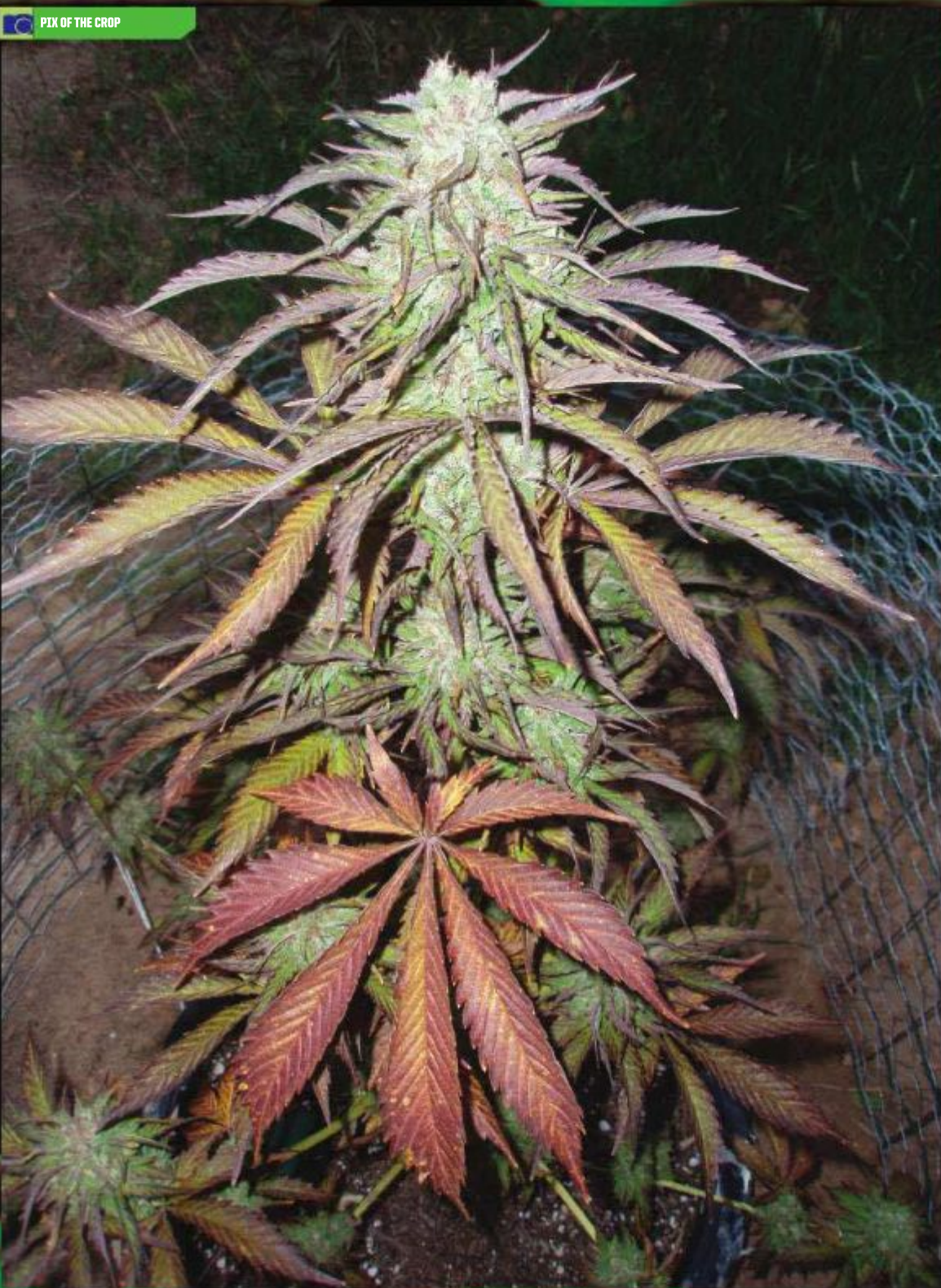
Here's a tasty shot from my legal, all-organic outdoor garden.
—Peace



DOG DAY AFTERNOON

This is Dog Daze I was lucky enough to score from Chemdog himself! Tastes as good as it looks and gets us hella high for hours. Good karma without the dogma keeps us happy, healthy and wise! Blessings all overseen!—Manhattan Island Massive





TECHNICOLOR DREAM BUD (left)

Some more shots from SoCal. Getting the early harvests in while the big babes are just starting to be put out in the big holes!—McDank805



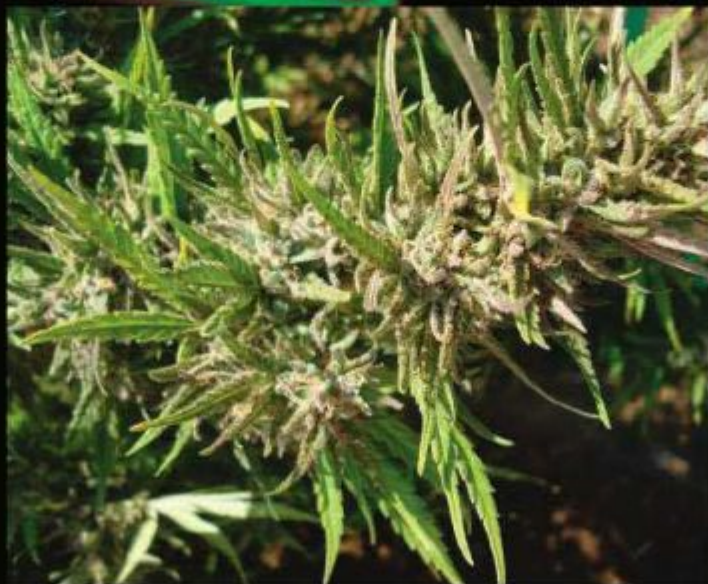
BLACKOUT EXPRESS (above)

Here's some love from the Pineapple Express.—Maine



FORGET ROSES (above)

A colorful bouquet of Colorado Grape Medicine (Godzilla Grape). —AC in Colorado



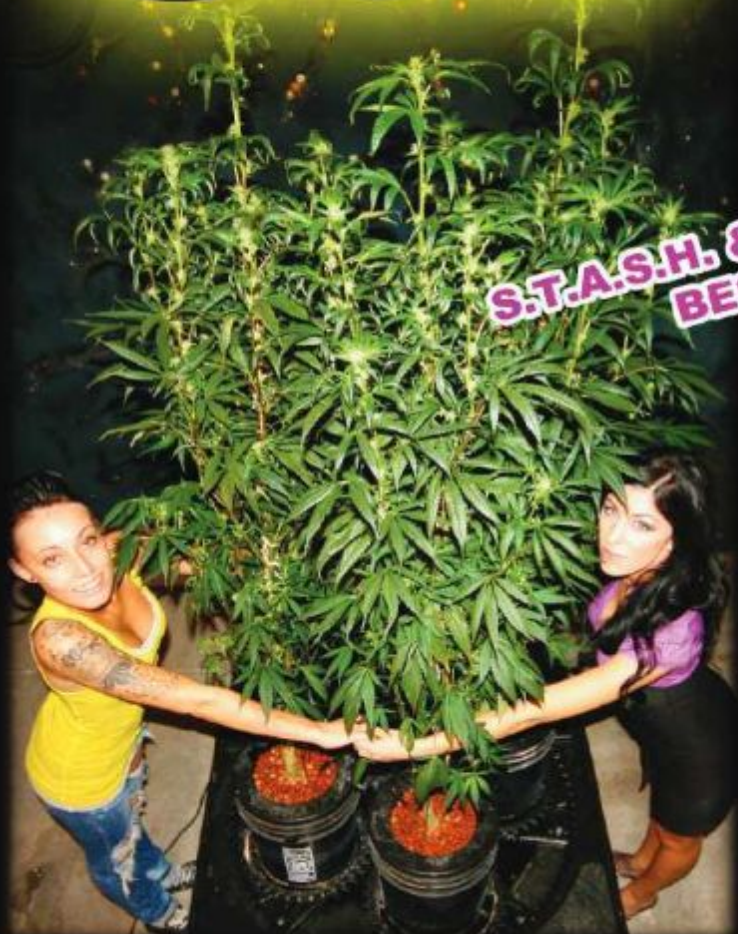
WIDOW'S PEAKS (left)

Longtime HT readers sharing our pix from last season's outdoor organic crop. Enjoy! —Funny Farm, Shasta County, CA

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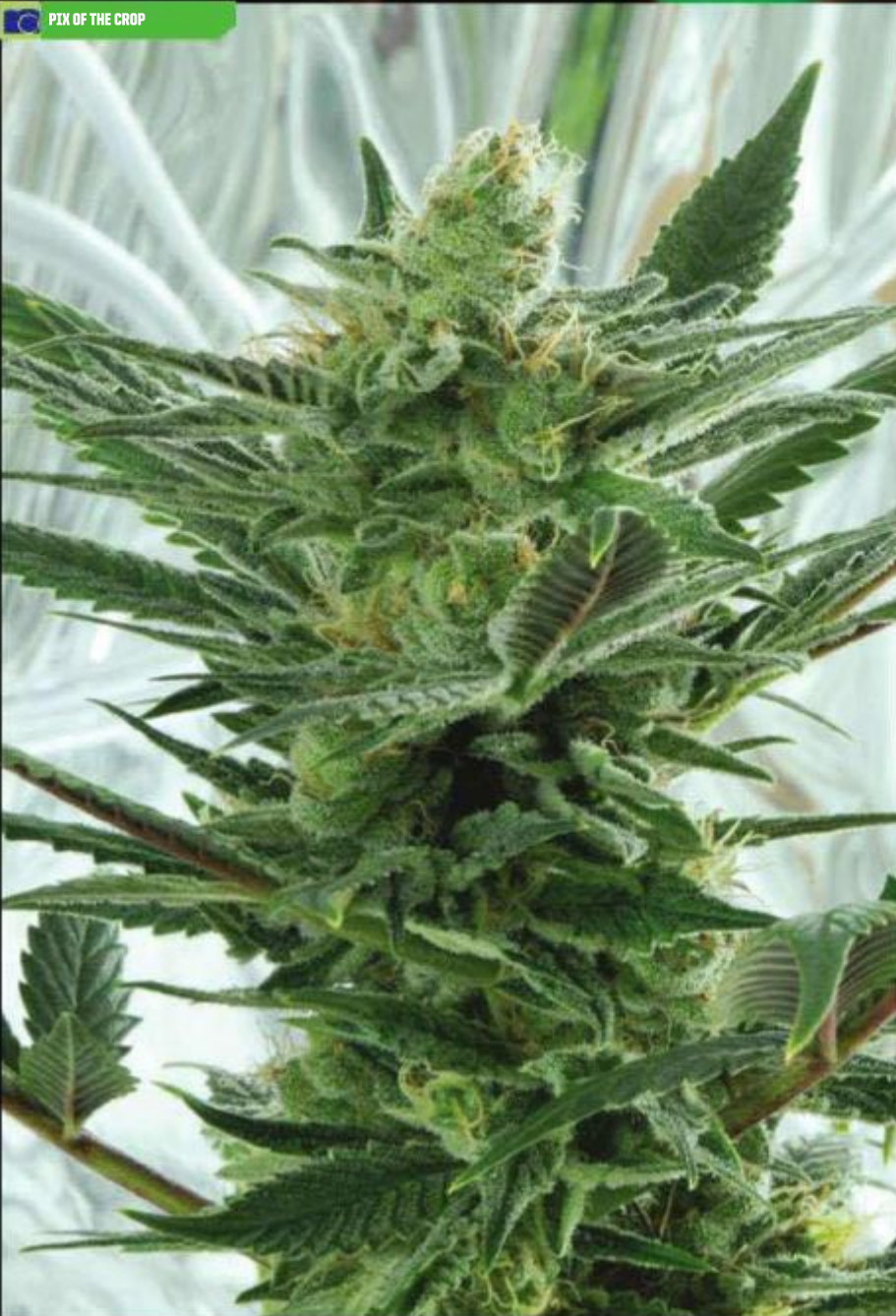
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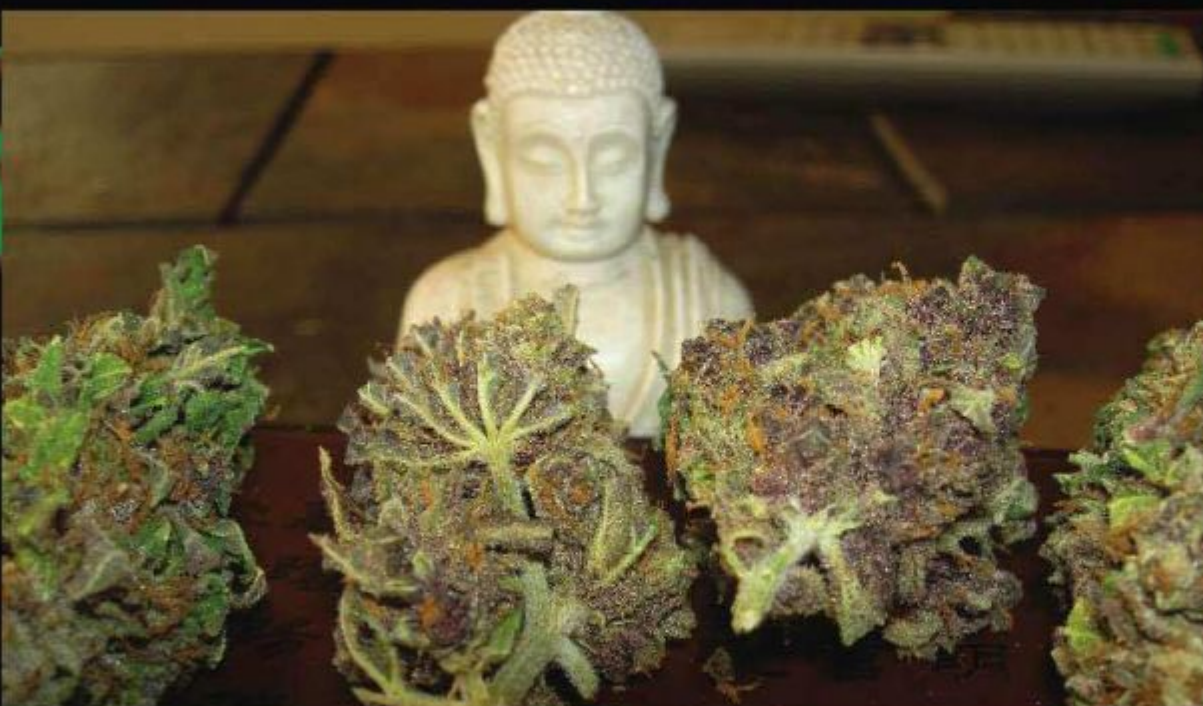
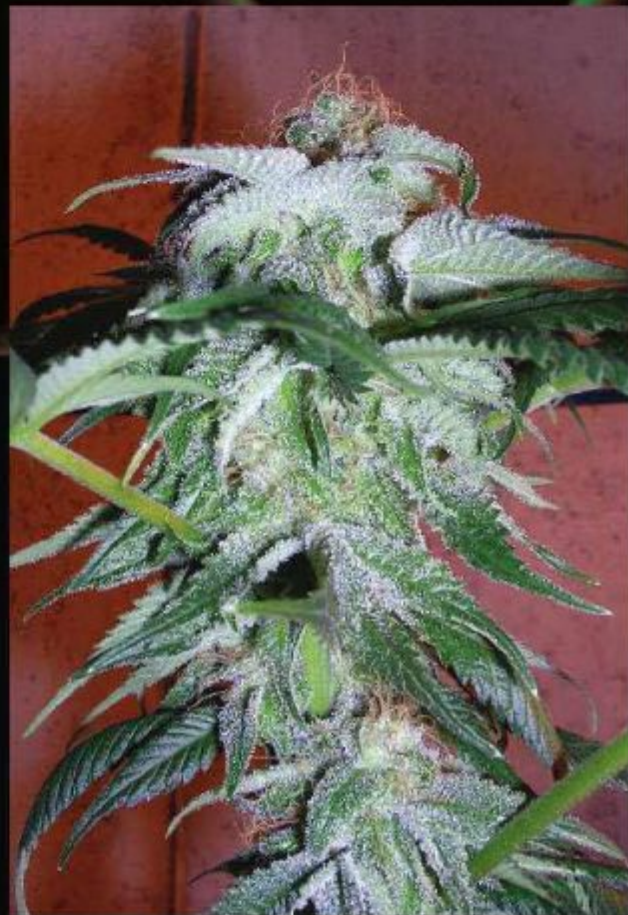


BUD BLOWOUT (left)

This God Bud is grown in my own custom soils and it's 100% legal.—Technologikill, Seattle, WA

BUDS THAT CARE (below)

We're a medical-marijuana dispensary and care-provider service in Fort Collins, CO. Here are a few pictures from our garden that we wanted to share.—BBC



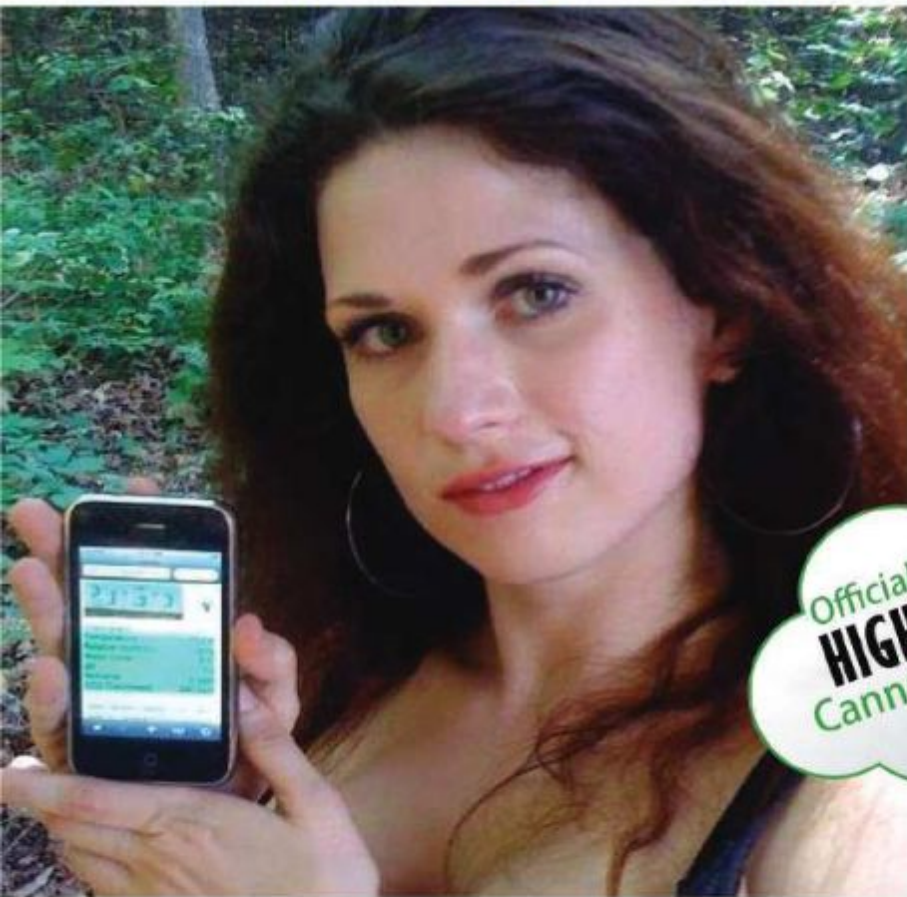
HERBAL OFFERINGS (left)

This is some Purple Urkel from a buddy of mine. Isn't she beautiful? Peace and love from NorCal!—GanjaSamurai

Pix of the Crop is reader-driven. Your submissions make all the stoners of the world dream of kind nuggets. Send pictures (no Polaroids), tips, questions and stories to: HIGH TIMES, 419 Park Avenue South, 16th floor, New York, NY 10016. Digital photos can be e-mailed to mailbag@hightimes.com and must be hi-res for publication. Remember, by submitting photograph(s) you thereby grant permission to the publisher to reprint photograph(s) in HIGH TIMES, as well as in any other Trans-High Corp. publication.

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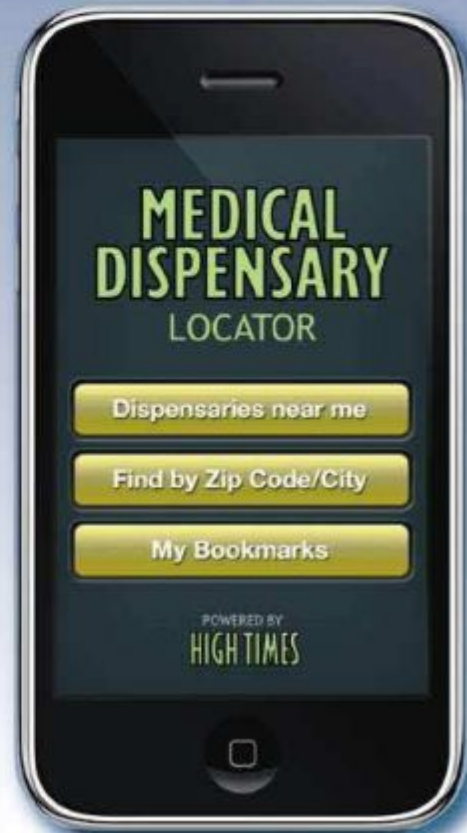
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BY NICO ESCONDIDO

EVERYTHING MEDICAL & MORE

Welcome to our mini-section devoted wholly to medicinal strains, news, uses, developments, activism, politics ... everything and anything, really, that is medically related to marijuana. This is your *Cannabis Clinic!*

In Cali, Time to Be Responsible

This is a tough topic to broach, but Rich Lee's Proposition 19, which will be on the ballot in California's November 2 elections, has stirred the pot (both literally and figuratively) to the point where the frenzy has reached a fever pitch—and perhaps caused some to lose their minds.

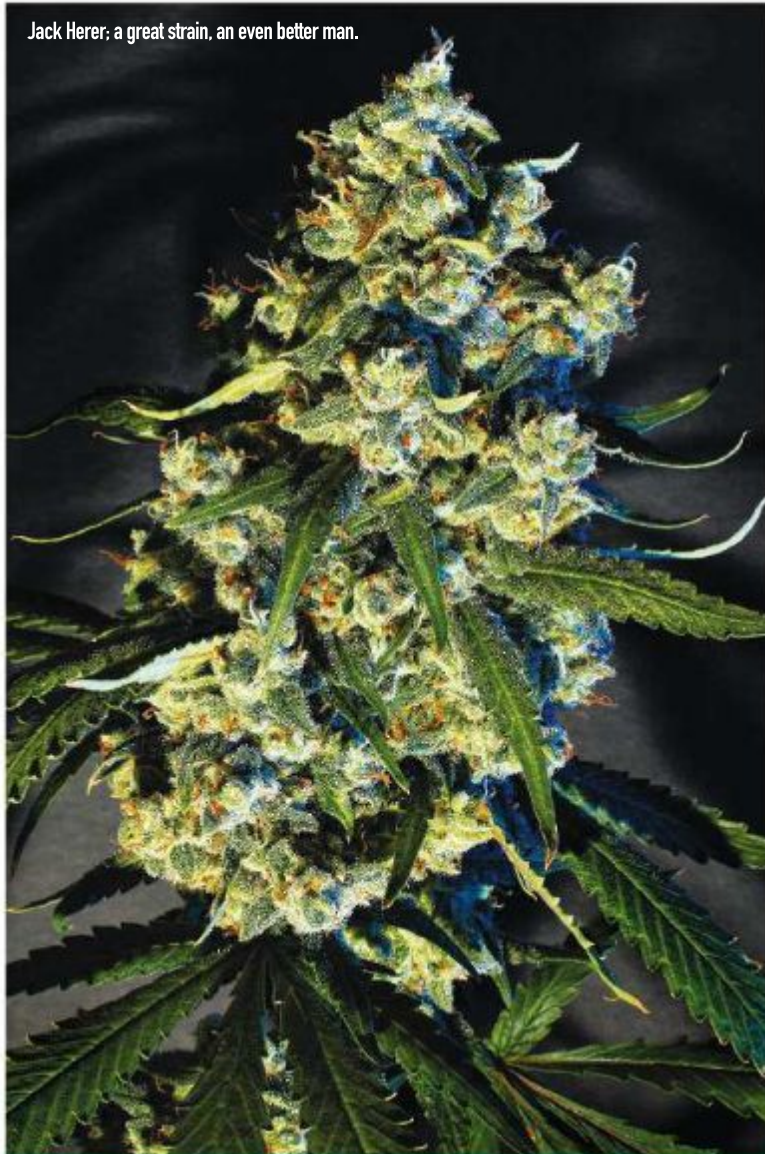
Californians have become divided—inexplicably, to the rest of the country—on whether or not to tax and regulate (i.e., legalize) marijuana for adults 21 years of age and older. Divided? Yes, divided.

Well, sorry, California—but this is one instance where you can't have your cake and eat it, too. You lucky bastards already have a New Amsterdam-esque state and have proudly led the way for 14 more states to pass medical legislation—and we, the rest of the county, thank you immensely for that. But now it's time for you guys to step up and finish the job!

Many have argued—more accurately, fretted—about the cons of legalization, worrying that bud prices will drop, the market will fall out, and growers will suddenly go bankrupt. Crazy thinking to the rest of the world, for sure, but perhaps this paranoia and propaganda has a slight tinge of truth to it—within the state's borders. However, it's still largely overstated, almost to the point of incurring accusations of sheer greed by the rest of America. Food for thought, at the very least.

But we leave you with these last words, oh beautiful people of California: Please think about the greater good, your brothers and sisters around North America who have been counting on you ever since Prop. 215 passed almost 15 years ago. What will our adversaries say if Prop. 19 fails? They will point

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at you and use it against all of us. Also, what will happen to the 12 states with medical legislation pending—and all of their patients? We need you, California, to stand up now and take responsibility and finish what you started. And we, the

rest of the country, promise to continue buying your pot!

Arizona Rising

This November, Arizona voters will decide whether to legalize medical marijuana and allow doctors to pre-

scribe it to patients with severe ailments. If the bill passes, the state hopes to regulate the drug itself.

"The bill is for a select, limited group of patients that have a certain class of illnesses that can be effectively treated by marijuana, and we want to make sure they have access to the medication that they need without being afraid of being arrested," said a spokesman for the Arizona Marijuana Policy Project.

Proposition 203 lists people with cancer, glaucoma, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C, ALS, Crohn's disease and Alzheimer's as prime candidates for medical marijuana—but it leaves the door open to a number of additional symptoms, from nausea to severe pain, as well. Also, patients who don't live within 25 miles of a dispensary will be able to grow their own medicine—a smart addition to the plan.

Said an advocate campaigning against Prop. 203: "It's really not about medical marijuana—it's about decriminalization and tying up the hands of the police, the prosecutors and the courts." Um, yeah ... that *is* what it's about. It's a plant, it's medical, and it should be legal!

'Nice Try' Award for Michigan

While retroactivity in applying new laws is often left to the discretion of judges, it usually doesn't work out in favor of defendants. This is something to keep in mind for those living (and thinking about growing) in states that have pending medical-marijuana legislation: Don't get started just yet.

The Michigan Appeals Court recently ruled that the state's medical-marijuana law can't be used retroactively to spare people from conviction on drug charges. This was a reversal of an earlier decision by a Tuscola County judge, who had dismissed charges against a man caught with nine plants and drug paraphernalia. Keith Campbell says he was using marijuana for medicinal purposes. Unfortunately, the bust occurred in 2007, a year before the medical-marijuana law took effect.

The Appeals Court noted that there are affirmative defenses for pot possession if the drug is used to ease an illness. But the court also ruled that there's nothing in the Michigan law that allows it to be applied retroactively. ✨

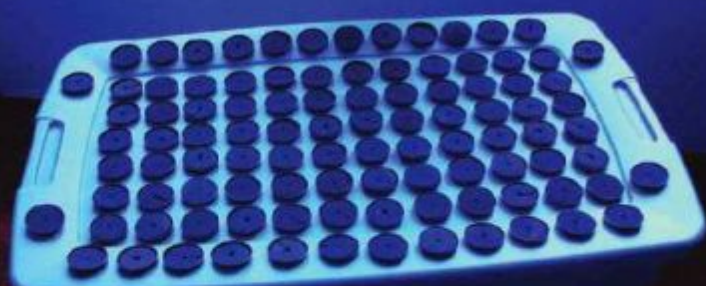
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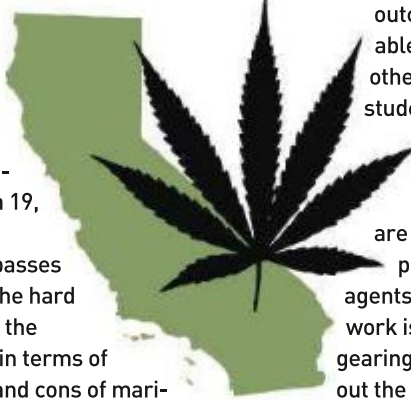
COUNTDOWN TO LEGALIZATION

California is on the verge of a history-defining moment.

California citizens are poised to make history this November 2 by voting to legalize marijuana, and I'm so excited that I've been given the opportunity to be involved in this tremendously important campaign. Whether or not Proposition 19, the Regulate, Control and Tax Cannabis Act of 2010, ultimately passes in November, I'm so proud of all the hard work this campaign has done and the great things we've accomplished in terms of educating people about the pros and cons of marijuana as well as the laws that prohibit it. And none of this would have been possible without the massive dedication of SSDP chapters and affiliated college groups around the state.

No matter the outcome in California, we've already made legalization a mainstream political issue across the country. Both the national and international media have followed this campaign closely, which in turn has helped give marijuana legalization the legitimacy that its advocates have been championing for decades. The public has finally realized how many people are seriously impacted by prohibition and has also taken note of the passion that we students have for ending these misguided policies.

Throughout the state, SSDP chapters and other student organizations have been working tirelessly knocking on doors, organizing public-education events and registering people to vote. Throughout the country, SSDPers have shown support for the California initiative by reaching out to huge numbers of the state's voters. In fact, these efforts have been significant enough to have a decisive impact on the



outcome of this election. We have been able to demonstrate that this is, among other things, a *student* issue, and that students are leading the way in overturning these unjust and harmful laws.

We have shown the world what we are capable of as students and have proven ourselves once again as the agents of progressive change. But this work is not yet over: The campaign is still gearing up for our last major push to get out the vote and make sure that our voices are heard at the ballot box. We have already surpassed our largest accomplishments, but November 2 is our chance to earn a place in the history books.

It is crucial for our movement that we continue this forward momentum in the direction of more sensible, fair and just marijuana laws. This is the closest we've come to re-legalizing cannabis, which means we may very well be on the verge of a turning point in American history regarding our drug laws. If we continue to escalate our efforts—no matter how hard it's been or how tired we're getting—marijuana could be legal in America's most populous state next month, and it will have been students who played a pivotal role in getting it done.

To learn more about how to get involved in the student movement to end the War on Drugs, visit ssdp.org today.—Evan Nison

Evan Nison is the president of the Ithaca College SSDP chapter as well as the deputy field director and student outreach coordinator for the passage of Proposition 19, the Regulate, Control and Tax Cannabis Act of 2010.

Ask Dr. Mitch



Dr. Mitch,
A shrink wants to put a magnet on my head to treat the depression that he thinks makes me turn to the plant. Would a giant magnet fry my brain or give me a seizure or something?

Hi W.,
Transcranial magnetic stimulation involves 45 minutes a day of sitting with a fancy electric coil on your head. The current is supposed to get neurotransmitters to squirt nicely and lift your mood. A few folks got seizures while scientists were figuring out the gizmo, but these are rare now. The magnet does give some people a wicked headache; it's really only approved for those who haven't responded to other treatments. If you're not depressed now and not running into problems with your current treatment, I'm not sure why you'd bother.

I think that vaporized herb is different from smoked because cannabinal doesn't get into the vapor. Does this make sense?

Tiberius

Hi Tiberius,
THC vaporizes at around 390° Fahrenheit. Cannabinal (CBN) vaporizes at around 415°F. A lot of vaporizers only heat up to about 410°F, so it's possible they're not cranking out the CBN. Nevertheless, CBN doesn't create subjective effects on its own and seems to enhance THC's effects only slightly, so it shouldn't make a huge difference. As good as the plant is, most folks won't miss the CBN.

I'm using hypnosis for creativity and wondered if marijuana might help me get into a trance.

Green Machine

Hi Green,
A study back in the 1970s showed that the plant can increase suggestibility, so the potential is there. But the research on hypnosis and creativity is mixed, with some studies supporting a connection and others not—which means it probably works for some folks, but not others. For example, author Andrew M. Greeley swears by it, though I doubt he uses cannabis.

Dr. Mitch Earleywine, Ph.D., is an associate professor of psychology at SUNY Albany. He is the author of Understanding Marijuana and The Parents' Guide to Marijuana. Got a question for Dr. Mitch? Email him at 420research@gmail.com.

FREEDOM FIGHTER

ANNE OF GREEN JERSEY

The Garden State's Anne Davis takes on the governor. By Russ Bellville

If the end of Prohibition in the 1930s has any lesson for marijuana-law reformers, it's that women—particularly mothers—must play a vital role in moving public opinion whenever policy meets perceived morality.

This month's Freedom Fighter, Anne Davis of New Jersey, exemplifies the legacy of 20th-century female reformers like Pauline Sabin. Davis is also a single mom and a practicing family-law attorney, so she has seen firsthand the devastation that can happen in a courtroom due to a parent's use of marijuana.

"Marijuana use comes up in custody cases all the time, and it is inherently unfair," she says. "A positive test in New Jersey will definitely result in supervised parenting time with limited visits and no overnights, regardless of how wonderful a parent may be. It's a damn shame."

Davis was appalled that families no different than her own were terrorized, not by the use of marijuana, but by our legal system's reaction to it. In 2008, she made the leap from bystander to activist by attending the NORML Aspen Legal Seminar and the NORML Conference in Berkeley. "As a registered Republican, I wasn't sure that marijuana-law reform, with its connotations of 'anti-establishment' and liberalism, would be welcoming to me," she notes. "I found just the opposite—that marijuana-law reform is truly a conservative message of personal responsibility, limited government and states' rights."

Davis was instrumental in the formation of NORML New Jersey and was recently elected executive director. She also helped lobby for passage of New Jersey's med-pot law and is currently challenging the new administration of Governor Chris Christie—a fellow Republican—to stop delaying its implementation.

Russ Bellville hosts NORML's daily audio podcast at stash.norml.org.



Anne Davis



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If You're Pro-Pot, You're Pro-Prop. 19

By Paul Armentano



This November, voters in California—the world's eighth-largest economy, and the place where one in eight Americans resides—will have an opportunity to become the first state in the US to legalize the possession, cultivation and sale of cannabis for non-medical consumers by voting in the affirmative for Proposition 19, the ballot initiative formally known as the Regulate, Control and Tax Cannabis Act of 2010.

Some opponents have tried to claim that passage of this initiative will negatively affect employment law, workplace safety and DWI enforcement, as well as lead to “drug cartels” buying up land in California to set up huge domestic grow ops. But the truth is that Proposition 19 in no way undermines the federal drug-free workplace rules, just as the state's 14-year experience with legalized medical marijuana has never even threatened to do so.

Further, it in no way limits the ability of employers to sanction or fire employees who show up for work under the influence of pot. Just as a private or public employer today may dismiss workers for being under the influence of (legal) alcohol, employers in the future will continue to be able to fire employees who arrive at work impaired by marijuana.

Similarly, Prop. 19 explicitly states that it will not amend or undermine existing state law criminalizing motorists who operate a vehicle while impaired. Driving under the influence of marijuana is already illegal in California, and these offenses are vigorously prosecuted. This fact will not change under the initiative.

Finally, the notion that Prop. 19 would allow “drug cartels” to buy up thousands of acres of California farmland and launch large-scale grow operations is frankly absurd. The proposal limits adult cultivation to personal use only, within the confines of a five-by-five-foot area per land parcel. Larger grow ops would continue to be illegal under the law unless they were commercially licensed by local governments, in a manner similar to the way that the commercial production of

alcohol is already licensed and regulated.

Fear-mongering rhetoric aside, here's what Prop. 19 would do: In the short term, it would end the practice of arresting and prosecuting adults in California for the private use of a substance that is objectively less harmful—both to the user and to society—than alcohol. By doing so, this initiative will unburden the courts, save millions in taxpayer dollars, and allow law enforcement to reallocate their resources to focus on targeting more serious crimes.

The broader, longer-term effect of this initiative will be to allow communities to explore policies designed to take the commercial cultivation and distribution of marijuana out of the hands of criminal entrepreneurs and put it into the hands of licensed, regulated businesspeople—creating new jobs and new sources of revenue in the process.

Finally, as a society, we don't tax and regulate alcohol because it's innocuous: We do so because we recognize that the substance temporarily alters mood and behavior and thus should be regulated accordingly. There's no reason why this same principle ought not to apply to cannabis. California placed criminal prohibitions on the possession and use of marijuana in 1913. Nearly 100 years later, it's apparent that cannabis is here to stay. So let's begin to address this reality and regulate the plant's production, distribution and use accordingly.

Proposition 19 is a welcome first step in this direction.

HIGH TIMES readers can learn more about this politically important voter initiative, and how to support it, by visiting taxcannabis.org.

Paul Armentano is the deputy director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws and co-author of the book Marijuana Is Safer: So Why Are We Driving People to Drink? You can contact him at 888-67-NORML or norml.org.

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Canadian growers have been developing a variety of means to maximize cannabis potency and quality through environmental and nutrient-management practices.

Story & photos by Erik Biksa

OPTIMIZE YOUR GROWING ENVIRONMENT

Atmosphere Control

The plants shown being harvested in this garden (courtesy of the Urban Grower) were cultivated in a controlled-environment agriculture (CEA) system that allowed the grower to exercise perfect control over every environmental parameter in the growroom. Daytime and nighttime temperatures are controlled independently and accurately via air-conditioning; excess humidity is removed from the air with industrial dehumidifiers; carbon-dioxide levels are supplemented with a gas-fired CO₂ generator; and the air is kept clean and pure with large, activated-charcoal air scrubbers and fans. All of these appliances are connected to precision sensors and monitors that allow the grower to create (and modify) the perfect climate for producing a heavy and sticky harvest of high-quality cannabis.

The level of control in this type of growroom is excellent—but, much like a computer, it's only as good as what you tell it to do. Most cannabis growers recognize that different strains have different preferences when it comes to the growing environment and nutrients. Experienced farmers recognize that at various times throughout the growth cycle, different strains can be manipulated in different ways to enhance the characteristics and traits desired.

Consider that in natural (i.e., outdoor) settings, cannabis plants receive differing intensities, qualities and durations of light. In addition, nutrient availability changes throughout the growing season. When growing indoors, however, growers have the ability to tightly control these and other growing parameters.



Harvesting this much pot indoors requires total atmosphere control at all times.



Wall-mounted fans keep air flowing and eliminate hot spots where serious problems can arise.

Warm It Up

Slightly warmer temperatures help to increase the metabolic rate of activity in both the soil and plants. During vegetative growth, supplementing CO₂ levels to approximately 1,000 ppm (parts per million) and maintaining even temperatures of 85°F during the daytime and 80°F at night proves to be optimal. The populations of beneficial microbes supplied via nutrient additives help to keep each plant's root system healthy while functioning at the higher metabolic rates stimulated by the warmer vegetative-stage temperatures. By keeping the DIF (i.e., the temperature differential between day and night or light and dark) closer at this stage, the plants tend to produce tighter branching patterns, building an efficient framework for supporting large yields of dense, sticky buds.

Humidity

In the early-veg stage, some growers prefer to keep their humidity levels slightly higher (for example, 65%) to give the plants an opportunity to set down some roots after transplanting. If the air is too dry, tender young plants will have to work hard to keep up with the water loss through their leaves, and this creates stresses that can reduce cropping potential and invite other problems. This is a great time to introduce predator insects like *Phytoseiulus persimilis* (which eat spider mites), because they tend to do better at higher humidity levels. Also, because the plants are smaller at this point, fewer predator insects can provide more effective coverage faster. The humidity levels are then gradually lowered as the veg stage progresses.

The Vegetative Stage

After the pre-veg phase, in which newly rooted clones or young seedlings are conditioned for more intensive growing conditions, the crop is ready to enter the vegetative-growth stage. Here, the goal is to develop a large root system and enough potential budding sites on each plant to fill the space allotted once the buds start flowering, while avoiding overfilling the space due to excessive plant heights and branching.

It takes research (and occasionally some trial and error) to accurately determine the best planting densities and times for vegetative growth to produce optimal results in any particular strain. It's important to note that *indica*-dominant strains may grow very little once flowering is initiated, while *sativa*-dominant strains may triple or even quadruple in size before finishing. Thus, the length of time spent in the vegetative-growth stage needs to be adjusted accordingly for each plant.

In this particular garden, the plants experienced a five-week vegetative-growth period before the flowering stage was induced. During this time, each of these NYC Sour Diesel plants received plenty of space for both branch and root development. Just to highlight how important a large, healthy root system is for big yields of high-quality buds later on, it should be noted that the plants were grown in approximately 72 liters of peat-based soilless mix apiece.

The soilless mix is maintained with high levels of microbial life and bioactivity to help further stimulate the root systems and fill the large volume of growing medium provided to each plant. Beneficial inoculants are added with the nutrients to populate the growth medium and the root zones with fungi and bacteria such as *Trichoderma*, *Pseudomonas*, *Azotobacter* and mycorrhizae. The root systems are kept elevated off the cold floors, and the containers are placed on wheels so that each of the trash-cans filled with soilless mix can be maneuvered easily through the grow-room to help maximize light coverage for each plant.



Hot spent air is exhausted through heavy duty ducting.



Increasing or decreasing humidity is vital to maintaining proper growth levels.

Adding CO₂ to the environment swells up these NYC Sour Diesel tops.



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Transition

The first one to two weeks of flowering are often referred to as the “transitional growth” phase. During this time, nitrogen levels are decreased slightly while the levels of phosphorous and potassium are increased. Temperatures should be reduced to 80°F when the lights are on and 75°F when they’re off. Notice that the DIF is still narrow here; this helps to create tighter internodes at the onset of flowering, reducing the spaces between individual budding sites and producing more buds for harvest. CO₂ levels are typically maintained at 1,000 to 1,200 ppm during this time, with a strain-dependent relative humidity of 40% to 55%.



Keep fans, humidifiers and other equipment out of the way to avoid airflow problems.

Flowering Time

At peak flowering (i.e., the middle of the flowering cycle), nutrient strengths and concentrations are at their highest, often averaging 1,500 ppm (approximately 2.0 EC) to stimulate and supply the intense structural development of the buds that occurs now. When using soil or soilless mixes, growers often follow a “feed, feed, water” regimen to help reduce the accumulation of nutrient residues that may occur in their medium. Growers who like to feed heavy will do a light flush of the containers or beds once every one to two weeks during flowering. A flush mix of humic acids and digestive enzymes proves to be ideal for this purpose, since it helps to reduce excess nutrients in the growth medium that can create nutrient imbalances or lockouts.

Humidity and temperature levels are maintained at their set points, with no changes until the late budding/ripening phase of the reproductive cycle. CO₂ levels should be further elevated at peak

Meters, sensors and controllers are essential to maintaining constantly optimum atmosphere.



flowering, and carbohydrates help to supply both the plants and beneficial soil life with an abundant source of energy when growth and development are occurring at a higher rate due to the growing environment provided.

For the ripening period—which typically consists of the last two to four weeks before harvest—medicinal growers shift gears with their environment and crop feedings to promote maximum bud swell and resin production as well as a smooth, clean taste in the harvested buds. Environmental manipulation can even bring out the best colorations in certain types of genetics (for example, beautiful purples and reds).

The Big Flush

For the final weeks before harvest, no base nutrients are applied. This helps to flush the plants and growing medium of any excess nutrients that may contribute to poor-tasting, hard-to-burn buds. A variety of rinsing agents can be used to help facilitate this process, although many growers (especially those reusing their medium, whether soil or soilless mix) prefer to flush with humic acids and digestive enzymes. In fact, growers who have doubled up on the rate of digestive enzymes mixed into the reservoir for flushing report marked improvements in both the quality of their crop and the suitability of their growing medium for reuse.

When significantly increasing the DIF between daytime and nighttime temperatures, growers should pay close attention to any rise in humidity levels during the dark cycle. Dehumidifiers help to keep the relative humidity (RH) from rising above 55% when the lights are off, which is necessary because excess humidity encourages bud rot and other plant diseases in the dense, heavy clusters of ripening cannabis.

CO₂

It’s important that CO₂ levels are lowered to ambient levels during the ripening phase (for example, 450 to 650 ppm). If CO₂ levels remain higher at this stage, the buds may get bigger, but they’ll lack the density and intense flavors and colors that growers typically desire. This is because car-

bon dioxide inhibits the plant’s production of ethylene, a naturally occurring hormone that assists in the ripening process.

Light intensity can also be reduced at this time, since growers are more concerned with dissipating their plants’ chlorophyll content rather than building it up to achieve better-quality medicine.

Harvesting

Only after the grower is sure that the plants and growing medium have been adequately flushed of excess nutrients does the decision of when to harvest come into play. Well-flushed plants will usually show yellowing in the older fan leaves, signifying that excess nutrients have been transferred and used up by the ripening colas. With a magnifying glass or handheld microscope, the grower can inspect the swelling resin glands for signs of peak maturity.

A higher percentage of clear-looking glands indicates that the resins have not yet reached their full potency. This is desirable for some patients, since slightly less mature resin glands often have a more “heady” effect (as opposed to either a sedative effect or body stone) because the ratios of THC to CBD (cannabidiol) and CBN (cannabinol) are wider.

When the resin glands have gone from clear to milky white and opaque, the resin is at peak maturity. For most patients, this proves to be the ideal time to harvest, since there’s now a good




Massive bushes can be grown indoors utilizing the proper conditions.

balance between the THC and CBD/CBN levels, providing a more equal head-to-body effect. On the other hand, those patients looking for a body stone may want to wait until some of the resin glands

have turned from milky white to amber: At this point, some of the THC is beginning to degrade and convert back into precursors like CBD and CBN. Growers who wait longer during the ripening phase may have slightly heavier harvests, but they are also much more likely to get a sleepier effect from their medicine.

Finally, some growers have noticed a higher rate of resin production when the plants are kept in total darkness for 24 to 48 hours prior to harvest. Some studies suggest that resin production in the cannabis plant peaks just before the sun comes up (or the lights are turned on), so the extra darkness may promote a final burst of resin secretion.

There are many different strains of cannabis that appear highly suited for treating various ailments, with each strain possessing its own unique resin profile. Growers can use carefully controlled environments and nutrient programs to bring out the best in a chosen strain and, in some instances, even enhance what it has to offer—resulting in cannabis that is potentially more effective for each patient’s unique needs. ✨



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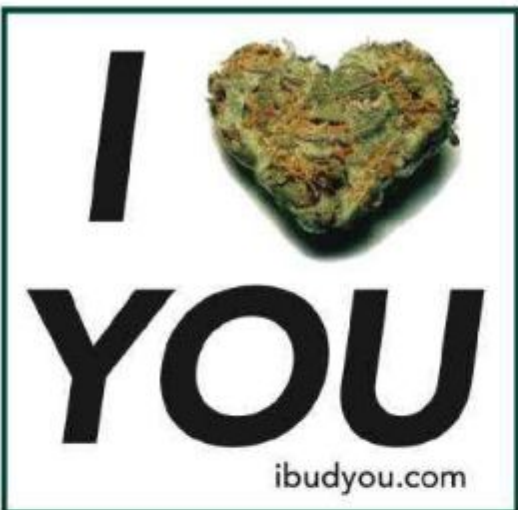
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MUNCHIES

GANJA FAGIOLI

Cannabis cannellini, a subconscious creation. By Ashley Boudreaux

Restrain me in the cursed thoughts that Nature gives way to in repose.—Macbeth

This recipe came to me in a dream. I was late for my deadline, as usual—discarding ideas as if they were last decade's tattered heels and just praying that the muse might plant a lede or at least a crappy sentence fragment in my subconscious with which I could spark a sudden conflagration of profundity. Calliope came through; I dreamed that my ex taught me a recipe for white beans.

I try not to think about the fucking guy—it's a dangerous pastime. Hell, I'm still flossing bits of my heart from between my teeth after that torrid saga, and I haven't seen him since I hooked up with my beautiful husband eight years ago. But the guy did inspire me to write prolifically way back when, and sometimes he still haunts me when I least expect it. He was, in effect, my muse incarnate.

He was a California boy—a commercial diver who came to New Orleans to work in the oil fields of the Gulf. He'd been raised on a sailboat and is still the only person that I've ever met who was deported from Australia. He had a scar on his palm from a knife fight in Western Samoa, and his eyes shone brighter than all the constellations in a peyote sky. I knew I loved him before we even brushed hands. He turned me onto Hunter S. Thompson, and I read him Baudelaire's poems in French, and we'd kick back smoking the dankest grass and drinking the best wine under flickering candlelight and jasmine-scented breezes.

For just one fleeting spring, things were perfect.

Then came the drugs—hard drugs—and darkness descended. "Everything in moderation," my father used to say, but my muse opted for a complete derangement of the senses instead. We shattered, I shattered, and he was lost for too many painful years. The curtains closed and I exited down the aisle on the nuptial arm of another.



Magic bean salad

My muse finally emerged from his self-inflicted decade of fog not long ago, and eventually found me—not that I'm hard to find. For the sanctity of my happy marriage, I've kept him at a distance, but the dream nagged at me—primarily because the recipe sounded as if it could actually work. So against my better judgment, I messaged him.

"You wouldn't happen to have a white-bean recipe, would you?"

"As a matter of fact, I do," he replied.

Weird. I didn't bother getting the information from him; I just chalked the whole thing up to good old-fashioned quantum entanglement and rolled with it. Fresh sage, bacon and a hint of real maple syrup give this simple, hearty dish just enough complexity to lift it above the ordinary. It has its roots in Tuscan cuisine—the cannellini bean is so commonly consumed there that Tuscans are sometimes referred to as *il mangia fagioli*, or "the bean eaters."

For hundreds of years, a similar dish called *cannellini al fiasco* was made in empty wine bottles set into the dying embers of the family hearth—and to this day, Tuscans reportedly scorn the idea of cooking these beans in metal pots, swearing that it affects the taste.

So grab your crockpot and let's do this thing! ✨

GANJA FAGIOLI

¼ ounce ganja shake, finely cleaned

1lb dry white beans

12 oz thick-cut bacon, cut into 2" squares.

7 fresh sage leaves, sliced chiffonade style (place the leaves atop one another in a stack, then cut them into thin strips perpendicular to the stem—it's easy, looks great and gives maximum flavor)

2 ¾ cups water

2 tsp sea salt

2 tsp coarse black pepper

2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil

2 tbsp real maple syrup

1 tsp balsamic vinegar

Cover and soak the beans for three hours before cooking, changing the water once. Drain completely. Place in crockpot and cover with 2 ¾ cups of water. Add sage, salt and pepper. Cover and turn on low.

In a heavy skillet, fry the bacon over low heat. When it's close to being done, add the olive oil and ganja and mix well. Add the maple syrup and balsamic vinegar. Continue to stir. When the consistency starts to look a little sticky, remove from heat and add the entire mixture into the crockpot. Cook for five to six hours or until the beans are soft with a touch of firmness. (Watch the beans carefully after the first three hours, as crockpots can vary in their heat output.)

Serve with a baguette or bruschetta. Stones seven.

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DEAR DANKO

ANSWERS BY DANNY DANKO

Rooted clones vegetate on racks under fluorescent lighting at Oaksterdam University.

CLONING FOR DOLLARS?

A few years ago, I read a story in *HIGH TIMES* about a guy who sold clones for a living. Now that doing something like this legally is a reality in my state, I'd like to know how someone could root enough cuttings and keep enough mother plants alive to keep clones in stock at all times?

Replica

Dear Rep,

I'm not sure what state you're in where it's legal to sell clones. Even in California, I would avoid getting into something without knowing the full consequences, especially since most places I know consider distribution of live, rooted cannabis cuttings to be illegal.

I wrote the article you're referring to: "Cloning for Dollars" (April '06 HT), about Mr. Mom, a city dweller who couldn't afford to have the odors of flowering plants wafting through his apartment building. Instead, he kept a stable of mother plants under a 250-watt metal-halide (MH) lamp and used a simple rack system of fluorescent lighting over a couple of EZ Clone machines in order to produce hundreds of clones to distribute to trusted grower friends in the area.

The key to successful cloning, no matter the medium, is the proper monitoring of moisture and temperature. Cuttings trying to root need

high humidity and warm temperatures in order to stay alive through the grueling rooting process.

Use a clean, sharp blade and cut at least a 2- or 3-inch section of the plant diagonally right below an internode (the place where the leaf joins the stem of the plant). Cut off any leaves within a half-inch of the cut end and then dip it into your chosen rooting hormone.

Whether you're using rockwool, soilless mix or some other rooting system, immediately insert the cut end at least a half-inch into the pre-moistened medium and place it under a clear dome beneath your fluorescent lights. In cold areas, trays should be warmed from below with a heating mat.

Hydroponic growers, take note: If you're using an aeroponic-mist cloning system such as the EZ Clone, GroClone or Replicator, it can be very helpful to run your sprayers on a cycle timer at one minute on/three minutes off in order to avoid drowning your cut ends with too much water. If you seem to always have mushy stems that rot and disintegrate, try this solution and you'll see roots developing within five to nine days.

NO BUDS

I need some help, please! I planted seeds in my backyard in March (I'm in North Carolina), and it's

now early July and I haven't seen any buds at all yet. I've got big plants with plenty of leaves and branches, but no flowers of any sort. What am I doing wrong?

Paul Budman

Dear Paul,

Everything is fine! Plants in your region won't naturally begin flowering outdoors until late July to early August. They should start showing signs of flowering very soon and promptly begin the transition from vegetation to blooming. If they don't, then perhaps you have too much light shining on them during the nighttime; plants won't flower without a full, uninterrupted dark cycle.

Barring any light problems, within short order the buds will begin forming on your plants, so keep in mind that their nutritional needs will change as well. Shift from a nutrient regimen that's heavy in nitrogen (N) to one with more phosphorus (P) and potassium (K). Avoid foliar feeding once the buds are clearly forming and visible.

Depending on the strain you're growing, they should be done sometime between September and December (but always harvest prior to any frosts). Luckily for you, you planted early, so your plants have had plenty of time to form branches to hold their heavy colas.

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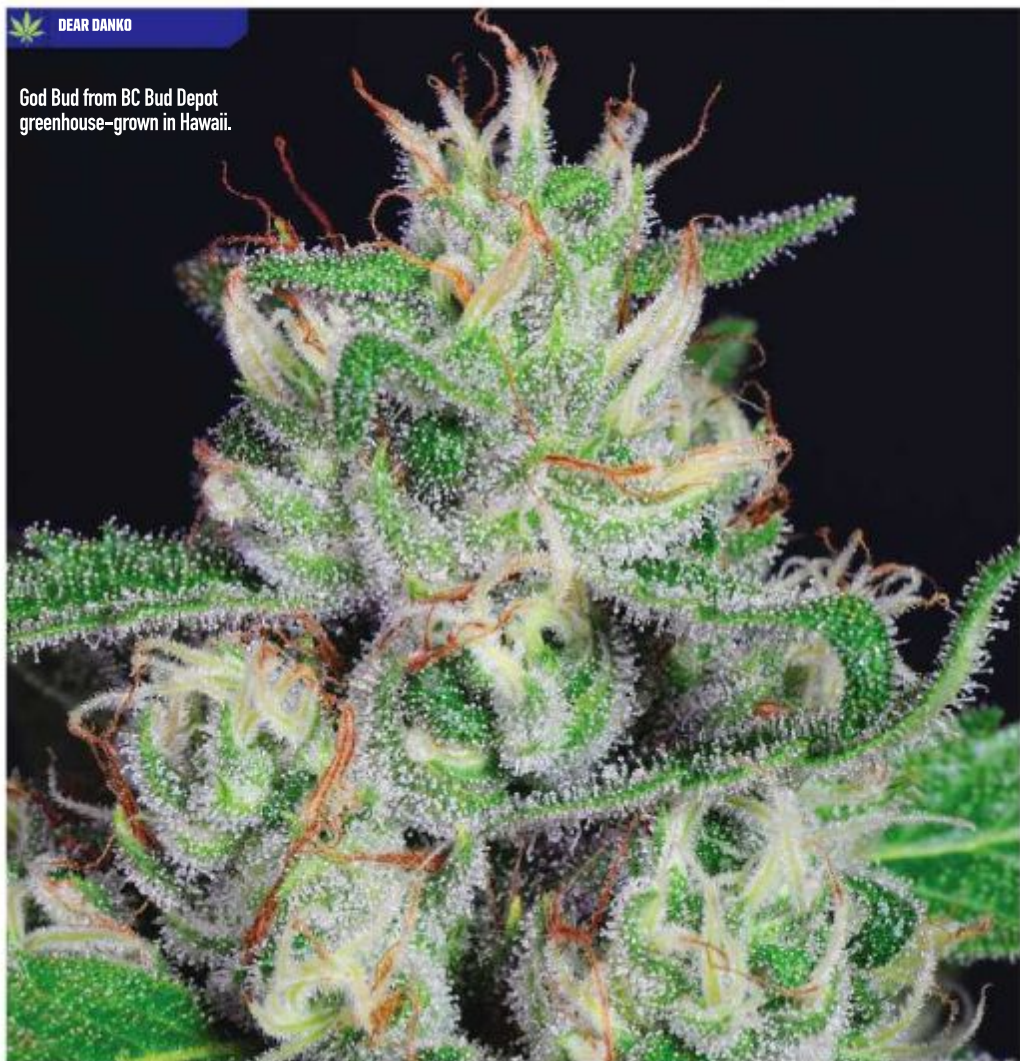
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DEAR DANKO

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SPIDER MITES DURING FLOWERING

I'm growing my first indoor crop, and I think I have spider mites. In fact, I know I do—first I found little white dots on the tops of the leaves, then the whole leaf started to turn yellow and die! I looked underneath one leaf and saw a bunch of little black dots running around. My flowers are starting to develop webs all over them! I'm at my wits' end. What can I do?

Bugging Out in Boise

Dear BOB,

Your problem has gotten worse than it ever should have due to your inaction early on. Mites must be dealt with immediately upon discovery with an aggressive program of pest control. They multiply so quickly that you'll find a many-pronged approach most effective in beating back these costly and annoying pests. With a lifespan as short as seven to 10 days, it's not long before you'll have generations of mites setting up shop and sucking the lifeblood out of your precious plants.

Always check the undersides of fan leaves as a daily precaution—and don't neglect that one plant in the back corner of the room that might be extra-tough to reach. Infestations usually begin in unnoticed places, so be sure to make the effort to check all your plants often as well as all of their surroundings—especially the surface of the growing medium.

During the vegetative stage or the beginning of flowering, if you see the early signs of spider mites—yellow or white dots on the leaf tops and tiny black moving dots underneath—immediately begin your war on these pesky pests. Use a

neem-oil-based spray and mist your plants liberally on the tops and bottoms of their leaves as well as the stalks and soil surface.

If your plants are still young and manageable enough, it's a great idea to give them a full dunking in a diluted neem-oil bath. Other useful homemade organic spray mixes include hot peppers, orange oil and crushed garlic bulbs. Type "organic pest control" into a search engine to find various recipes online. Check the labels on any store-bought sprays for ingredients and additives that can be harmful to edible plants.

If you're more than a couple of weeks into the flowering stage, you need to be more cautious about rampant spraying to avoid causing damage or molds to the forming buds. You can carefully spray the fan leaves to get rid of many of your new colonists, but you should probably employ some kind of beneficial insects such as ladybugs or predatory mites. Both can be ordered online or purchased at indoor grow-supply shops.

BOX OF GROW

I'm about to order a Super Locker Stealth Growbox from dealzer.com from an ad I saw in HIGH TIMES, and I was just wondering what you thought of this product.

Chronic Dope Smoke

Dear CDS,

The product you're referring to is a growbox designed to look like a storage locker. Two separate chambers allow you to grow clones and flowering plants within the same unit. It's a nice, affordable and stealthy growbox that will pro-

duce plenty of pot under the right circumstances.

Since tightly enclosed growing spaces heat up quickly, put an emphasis on ventilation from the box and cooling the area in which it's housed with an air conditioner. Also keep in mind that plants will continue to grow after flowering is induced and act accordingly, allowing plenty of space for them to fill out. Producing pot in a growbox can be fun and rewarding—as long as you adhere to the instructions and unique requirements of microfarming.

CLEAR, WHITE OR AMBER?

I've been growing for just over four months, and I just harvested my first crop. I think it turned out pretty good, but I'm not sure I chose the right time to harvest, because this weed makes me and all my amigos sleepy. I'm aware that I should be looking at the color of the trichomes in order to decide when to harvest, and I've seen beautiful pictures of clear, milky or amber-colored trichomes in HIGH TIMES' macro photographs.

My question is: With this next crop almost done, when I'm looking at plants through my 30x loupe, how obvious is this color change going to be to me? I'm near the end of the seventh week of flowering: I see pretty, mushroom-shaped trichomes, and I think they're all still clear. All the hairs have turned red, and my Kush plant has turned purple. I know these things are related, but the trichomes are my ultimate tell. Thanks!

Kind Kevin

Dear Kevin,

You're referring to the color within the glandular trichomes, the tiny "crystals" on the buds best visible under magnification. They resemble tiny glass mushrooms with a stalk and head on top. The proper time to harvest your cannabis is when the trichome heads have just turned from clear to cloudy or milky, but before too many have turned amber. The color change will be obvious as long as you're looking at the center of the gland head perched atop the stalk. Perhaps you could upgrade to a 100x scope in order to get a closer look.

Some people enjoy the more lethargic stone that comes from pot harvested a week or two late, but most cannabis connoisseurs prefer milky trichomes at full maturity and ripeness, before any degradation of the essential oils within. However, medicinal patients looking for a heavier effect may benefit from a later harvest in order to emphasize certain pain-relieving qualities.

STRAIN MIX-UP

I have a problem—I'm 55 years old, and my wife and I both have our medical cards. I've been growing weed for a long time, but I haven't done it indoors until our recent move to Oregon. A friend helped me set up and started me out with the best and strongest weed I've ever had—and trust me, it's good! He got the strain from some old man from around here who's been growing it for over 20 years. We don't know the original name, but we call it OCC for "Oregon Coast Cannabis."

Anyway, I got some really good *indica* seeds and grew six of them by side next to six of the OCC plants. Then my buddy who gave me the OCC came over to see the plants, and he said that the OCC plants had changed in looks and odor somehow. I



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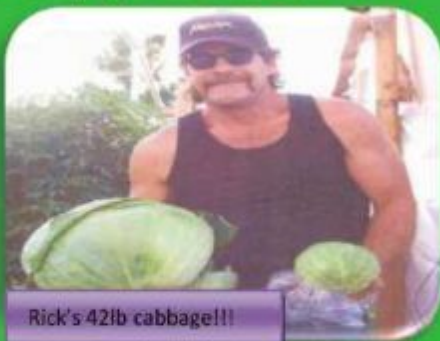
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DEAR DANKO



Heavy harvests result from patience, care and time spent with the plants during all stages of growth.

told him he was full of shit, because you can plant an apple tree and a pear tree side by side and it won't turn them both into apple-pear trees, right? But then he brought some of his OCC over and, sure enough, it looked and smelled different than mine. Is this possible—and, if so, how can I prevent it from happening again?

Hot Rod

Dear HR,
The same strain grown by two different farmers can turn out very different indeed. Even though the plants are genetically identical, the environmental factors are of utmost importance to the final product. I suggest you look into the growing conditions for the OCC plants and whether they came from a healthy mother plant. Sometimes, clones from stressed-out moms produce plants that lack vigor. Often, cuttings that lag during the rooting period will have trouble keeping up with other plants throughout the growing cycle.

Rest assured that your plants can't take on the characteristics of nearby plants without your first crossing a male or hermaphrodite with a female and producing seeds. Also, this couldn't happen within the course of one har-

vest season—and only if the plants came up from the ground the next year could they possibly exhibit each other's traits.

Get yourself some fresh, healthy cuttings of the OCC and grow them out again. Chances are you just had a bad run. While you're at it, do some research on breeding and try to isolate and stabilize the traits that you like and pass them on to the next generation better than they were passed on to you.

CARRY THAT WEIGHT

I'm a newbie who's trying to grow two pounds of bud every month or so. What type of setup do I need for this, and what's the best one to buy?

Jay Tee

Dear Jay Tee,
Whoa there, buddy! As a self-described "newbie," you need to slow down and be realistic about the sacred project you are about to embark on. Instead of approaching it with weight and profit in mind as your goal and motivation, remind yourself that you are partaking in a noble and difficult pursuit akin to modern-day alchemy. Cultivating cannabis isn't as easy as purchas-

ing the perfect system and firing up a grow light. You must start with a proper understanding of plant science, including germination, propagation, photosynthesis and nutrition. Get a grow book (Jorge Cervantes's are my favorites) and familiarize yourself with the various stages of growth.

Also, be prepared to fail. This is a tough one for some newbies to accept, but all farmers—even the so-called experts—have lost a garden or two (or more). Learning to grow is a process of trial and error, and you must allow for setbacks in your plans in order to learn from your mistakes and be able to properly deal with them.

Eventually, after getting a few harvests under your belt, you'll be able to create a perpetual-harvest system by which you'll yield your desired amount of cannabis. But always remember that there's no one perfect way to grow great pot, so keep your mind open to new techniques and possibilities.

'KIEFING' BUDS

I've been around some smelly stuff before, and the look and feel were good but the kick wasn't always there. Someone told me about people siphoning off the THC before they sell it to you. Is this real or an old wives' tale?

Will 777

Dear Will,

The shocking thing is that I've heard of the practice you're referring to—some call it "kiefing" the buds, although that's a bit of a misnomer. Needless to say, it's unethical and despicable to sift the resin from buds before passing them along to someone else. That may not be the case with your buds, as some strains simply smell and look great without delivering much of a high.

On a side note, it's truly sad that because of cannabis prohibition, I have to keep answering questions about adulterated pot and those who would take advantage of patients and consumers by extracting the trichomes first for their own selfish benefit. In the absence of a black market, all of these desecrations to our sacrament and medicine will disappear. It's all the more imperative to take the market out of the hands of thieves once and for all and to grow our own cannabis to share with those in need.

GROWING UPSIDE DOWN

I'm interested in trying one of those Topsy Turvy tomato planters I see on TV when the outdoor season starts up. Can marijuana grow upside down like that or do you think it would be a waste of time and a good plant?

SubHerban Farmer

Dear SHF,

Here at HIGH TIMES, we've gotten photos over the past few years of people successfully growing pot upside down. The branches grow up toward their light source making for an interesting looking specimen. Keeping the plants off the ground also reduces damage from molds and insects. Unfortunately, there's little room for roots to grow, so plants shouldn't stay in their vegetative stage for long. Bottom line, it's a novelty item at best, yet for under \$20 a unit they can be a fun experiment for the inquisitive gardener. ✨

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Each year, HIGH TIMES chooses the best of the buds that rocked your world. So which superstar strains made the list in 2010? Senior Cultivation Editor Danny Danko selects the perfect 10. Take a comprehensive look at these potent and popular sensi strains—we're sure you're gonna have a tough time figuring out what to grow in your garden in 2011.

GLOBAL HARVEST REPORT

What's happening in cannabis grow scenes around the world? Every year, the HIGH TIMES Cultivation Department scours the planet to compile information and photos on the harvest season in different regions and climates. The result is a comprehensive report on popular cannabis varieties, varying weather and seasonal conditions, and how to get higher yields no matter where you live.

LIGHT OUR FIRE

Transcendent and timeless, psychedelic and poetic—the music and mystique of the Doors have forever transformed our culture and established them as one of the greatest rock'n'roll bands in history. Senior Editor Bobby Black "breaks on through" with the band's legendary guitarist, Robby Krieger, to talk about marijuana, Morrison and the band's new documentary film, *When You're Strange*.

BOOT CAMP: TENT GROWING!

Harry Resin, former partner at Delta-9 Labs, discusses indoor growing on a whole new level—tents. Perfect for smaller home growers, hobbyists and breeders, tent growing is an easy and secure way to set up (and break down) your grow op quickly. Tents also come in a variety of sizes that will accommodate any kind of space or setup. The latest models have even been designed with features that make lighting and atmosphere control convenient and efficient—while keeping growers safe!

RHODE ISLAND SUCCESS STORY

It may be the smallest state in the union, but its compassion is outsized: Rhode Island's acceptance of medical marijuana is instructive not just as an illustration of how a sense of community takes care of people, but how it can take care of business as well.

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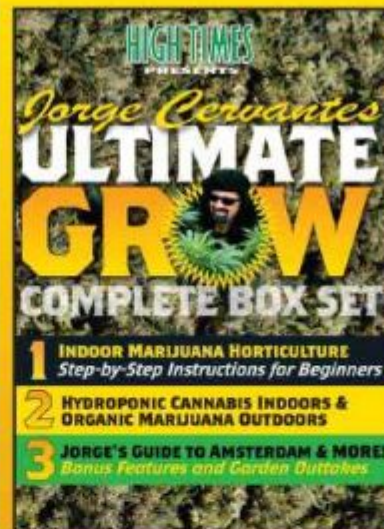


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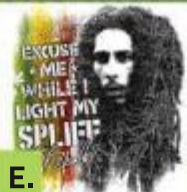
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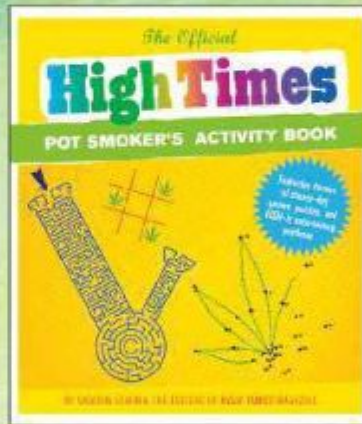
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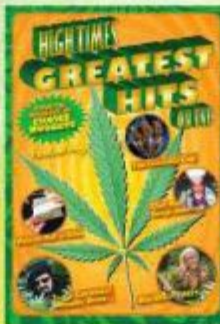
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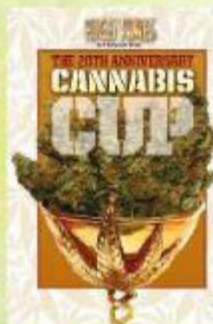
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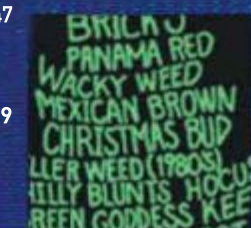
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Since 1974, HIGH TIMES magazine has covered marijuana in all its aspects and wonders. Packed with inside information, our handbook rolls up all of this collected wisdom into one indispensable ganja guide. With a life-changing list of 420 things to do when you're stoned, this is truly, finally, the ultimate guide to green living. \$19.95

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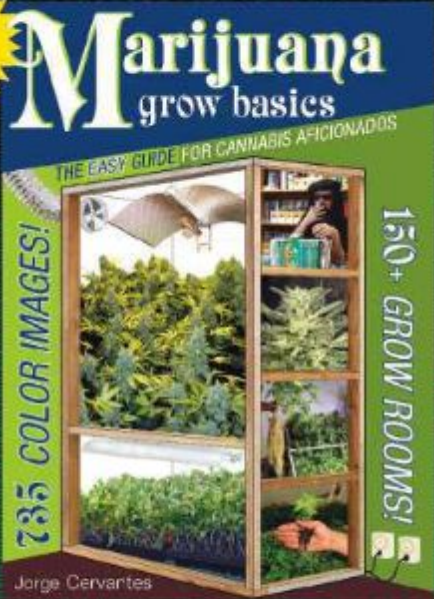
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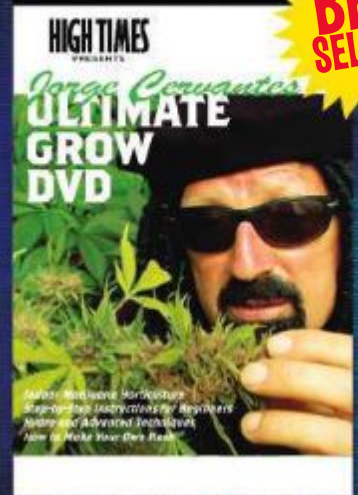
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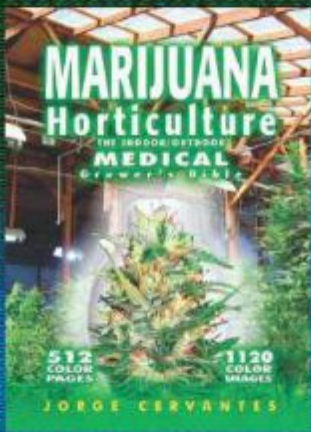
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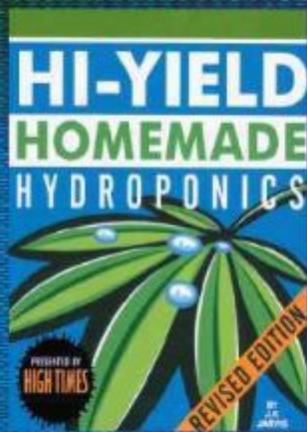
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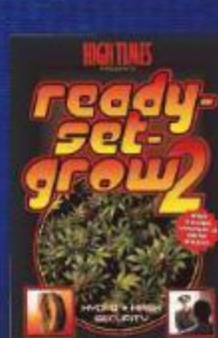
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went up the hill to smoke a little reef
Jack got high unzipped his fly
and Jill said "WHERE'S THE BEEF?"
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THEY SAY HEAVEN HOLDS THE BEST. IF THAT'S TRUE, I KNOW YOU'RE ON CLOUD 9 AND I'M NOT HERE AS STONED AS YOU! SAVE ME A TORCH FOR WHEN I GET TO THE GATES. SO MUCH TO DO, SO MUCH FOOD TO BE ATE!!
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- Stoners**
Spread the word: put the number "4" in front of every "20" on any bill you have!
- BLACK INDICA CHRONIC**
- A sunny day**
A soggy June
will have a hippie
A-hummin' a happy tune
- SAVE A B**
- Lord, won't you buy me a mercedes Benz?**
- Buena Vista Kush**
- The WHALES!**
Harpoon a Big Fat Narc!
- Obama**
for NOTHING!
MORE GOUT, MORE LIES!
- to err is human to forgive is not**
U.S. Customs policy
BE CAREFUL!!
- State of Maine**
BUD INSPECTOR
- WAKE BAKE**
- It's time for a Hemp-Friendly COP!**
- DON'T Panic**
IT'S ORGANIC
- The Great American**
- WAKE BAKE**
- Snoodling**
with BRAND! NOT GOD!
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"I MAY NOT GET AS MUCH ASS AS YOU, BUT I DON'T TAKE NO SHIT!"
- I Was breaking my back**
for the boss, just to barely get what I need.
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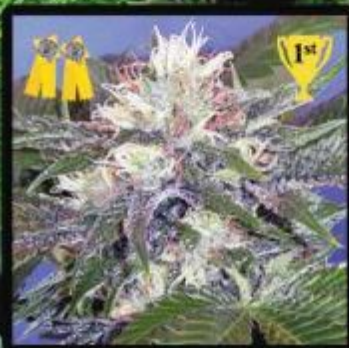
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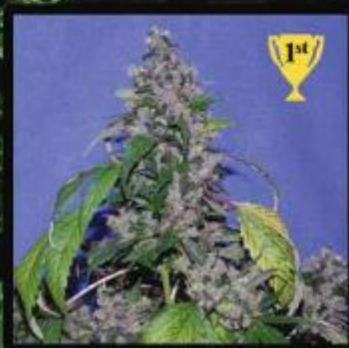
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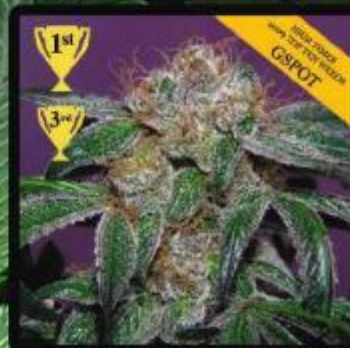
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420



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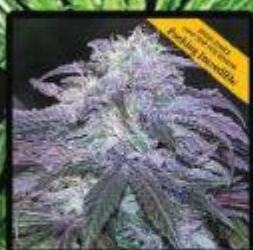
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Bitch	\$65
Black Velvet	\$75
Blackberry	\$85
BlackBurmese	\$90
British Columbian	\$75
Bud Lite	\$62
Burmese	\$85
Burmaberry	\$85
Bush Bud	\$62
Canadian	\$80

FUCKING INCREDIBLE: High Times Top 10 Strains 2008

Che	\$75
Copperhead	\$75
Dubble Bubble	\$75
Eve	\$75
Fucking Incredible	\$140
Gold	\$75
GSPOT	\$105
Indigo	\$80
Jinn	\$85
Kat	\$85
KGB	\$62
Midnight	\$75
Mystic	\$85
Nuclear	\$85
Olympic	\$62
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The Legend of the BURMESE See High Times January 2009

Sweet	\$75
The Producer	\$100
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Titanium	\$75
Vertigo	\$75
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WOWWeed	\$100
VISC Mix	\$50



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GSPOT High Times Top 10 Strains of 2009

Read about VISC's Induction into The Seed Bank HALL OF FAME in the August 2009 issue of High Times

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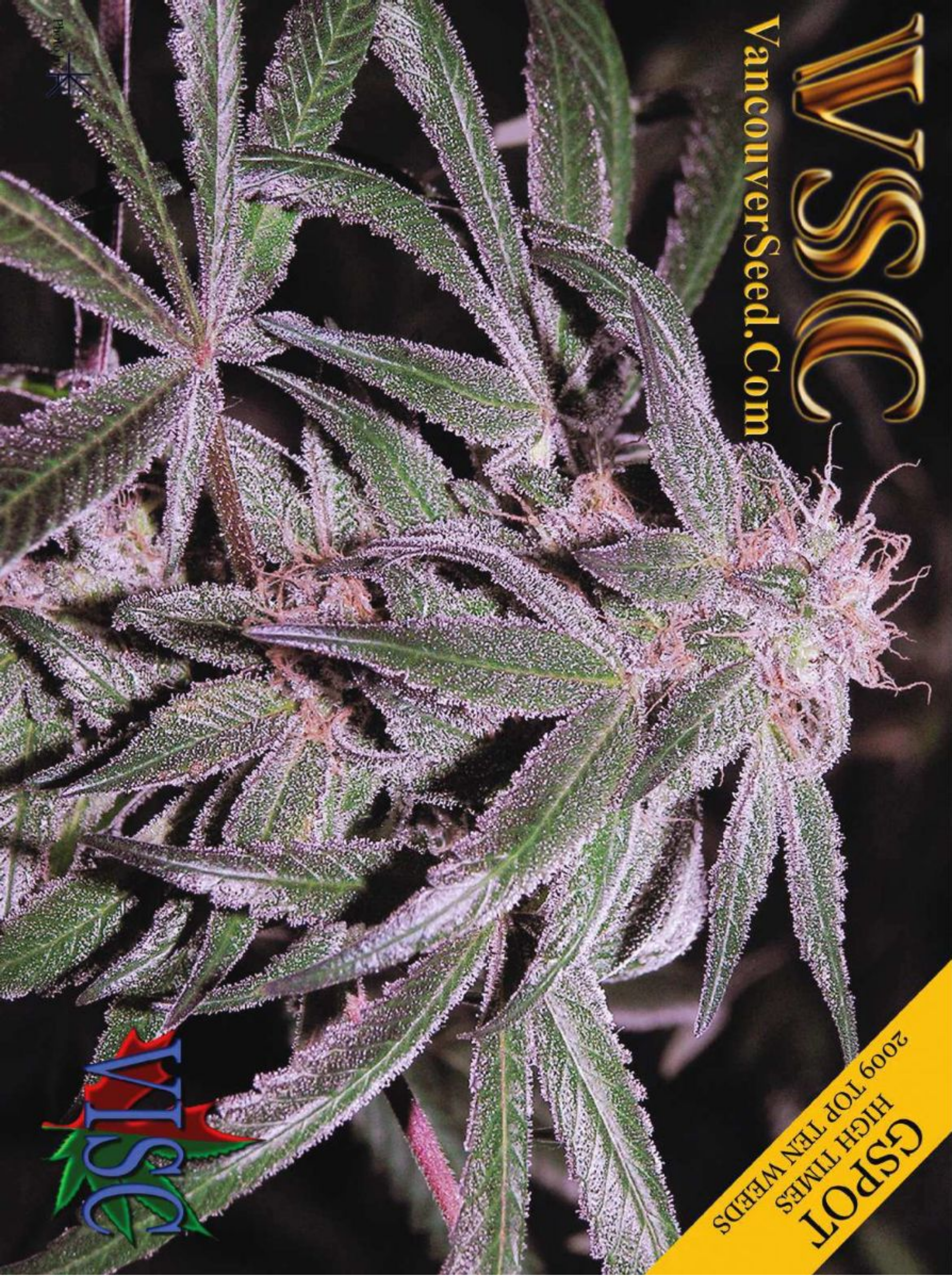
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- OB8 SKUNK #1
- OB9 XXX-420
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- P4 NEBULA
- P5 SENSI STAR
- P6 SHEHERAZADE
- P7 SWEET PURPLE
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- P10 SWISS BLISS
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- SU2 SPACE QUEEN
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- SU6 AGENT ORANGE
- SU7 DEEP PURPLE
- SU8 JILLY BEAN
- SU9 QUERKLE
- SU10 THE FLAV

WILD ROSE

- W1 5-STAR
- W2 ASSHOLE
- W3 BLUE MOUNTAIN JAMAICAN
- W4 COLOMBIAN GOLD
- W5 ROSEBUD
- W6 SKUNK INDICA
- W7 SKUNK X JAMAICA
- W8 SS EARLY BUD
- W9 WILD WEST

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- SE3 KALI MIST
- SE4 WHITE RUSSIAN
- SE5 AK 47

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- DP2 POWER PLANT
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